National Provider Identifier (NPI)

HIPAA NEWS

National Provider Identifier

The Administrative Simplification provisions of the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)* mandated the adoption of standard unique identifiers for health care providers. The purpose of these provisions is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the electronic transmission of health and claim information. The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a new 10-digit identification number issued through the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES), developed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The NPI will replace all payer-specific provider numbers (e.g., NABP, Medicare and EqualityCare numbers) on nationally recognized electronic transactions (also known as standard transactions). Health plans, clearing houses and covered health care providers that submit claims or other information electronically will be required to apply for and use an NPI.

Affected Providers

Beginning May 23, 2007, pharmacies and DME suppliers will be required to use an NPI when conducting nationally recognized electronic transactions. EqualityCare strongly recommends providers obtain their NPI well in advance of the May 2007 deadline.

NPI and Paper Transactions

While the NPI Final Rule does not require the NPI to be used on paper forms, EqualityCare will require its providers to use their NPI on paper claims and paper prior authorization requests. Future publications will notify providers when procedures for paper forms are finalized.

EqualityCare Requirements

♦ All enrolled pharmacies are required to obtain an NPI, regardless of whether they bill their claims electronically using the NCPDP 5.1 format or on paper using the Universal Claim Form.

♦ All enrolled DME suppliers are required to obtain an NPI, regardless of whether they bill their claims electronically using the 837 Professional format or on paper using the CMS-1500 form.

♦ All enrolled DME suppliers are required to use a taxonomy code, along with their NPI, when billing claims electronically or on paper. DME suppliers will use the same taxonomy code they entered on their NPI application to designate their provider type. **[NOTE: This requirement also applies to DME claims billed electronically to Medicare for clients who are dual eligible for both Medicare <u>and</u> EqualityCare. Without a taxonomy code, the crossover claim may be rejected when it is received by EqualityCare.]**

♦ EqualityCare is adopting the National Uniform Claim Committee's (NUCC) recommended timeline for transitioning providers to the revised CMS-1500 claim form. All DME providers must switch to the revised form by April 1, 2007. To see the revised CMS-1500 claim form, visit the NUCC's website at *www.nucc.org* and click on *1500 Claim Form* at the top of the page.

Key Dates

◊ April 1, 2007—DME suppliers billing on paper must use the revised CMS-1500 claim form.

◊ May 23, 2007—NPI replaces all payer-specific identification numbers, including NABP, Medicare and EqualityCare numbers.

DME suppliers must begin including a taxonomy code along with their NPI on electronic and paper claims.

ALERT!
EqualityCare is not accepting the NPI on electronic or paper transactions at this time.
ALERT!

(Message from CMS) NPI: GET IT. SHARE IT. USE IT.

As the industry transitions to NPI compliance, remember that there is no charge to get an NPI. Providers may apply online for their NPI, free of charge, by visiting *nppes.cms.hhs.gov* or by calling 1-800-465-3203 to request a paper application. The CMS NPI page, located at *www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalrovIdentStand/*, is the only source for official CMS education and information on the NPI initiative; all products located on this site are free of charge.

CMS continues to urge providers to include legacy identifiers on their NPI applications, not only for Medicare but for all payors. If reporting a Medicaid number, include the associated state name. If providers have already applied for their NPI, CMS asks them to go back into the NPPES and update their information with their legacy identifiers. This information is critical for payers in the development of crosswalks to aid in the transition to the NPI.

Getting an NPI is free—not having one can be costly!

EqualityCare Provider Verification Form

Beginning December 2006, EqualityCare will mail a Provider Verification Form to every active EqualityCare provider. The form will give providers an opportunity to update their information on file with EqualityCare. More importantly, the form will be used to collect each provider's NPI. It is imperative the Provider Verification Form be completed and mailed back within 45 days of receipt. Providers that do not return the form in a timely manner risk having their claims delayed or rejected after May 23, 2007.

Preparation

All pharmacies and DME suppliers enrolled with EqualityCare are required to obtain an NPI. In preparation for the May 23, 2007 deadline, providers are encouraged to do

Pharmacies and DME suppliers that do not obtain an NPI by May 23, 2007 risk having their claims delayed or rejected.

the following:

√ Contact their corporate office for guidance on how to apply for an NPI. Many corporations will already have obtained an NPI for each chain location.

√ Educate themselves about the NPI and communicate with their staff.

√ Check the CMS Web site (*www.cms.hhs.gov/*) frequently for the latest information about the NPI.

√ Communicate with their switch vendors, billing services and clearinghouses.

√ Identify processes and systems that will be affected by the NPI and Equality-Care's taxonomy code requirement.

√ Watch for future EqualityCare publications.

EqualityCare is requiring pharmacies and DME suppliers to obtain an NPI, regardless of whether they bill their claims electronically or on paper.

How to Apply

♦ For chain pharmacies and DME suppliers, EqualityCare recommends you contact your corporate office first. It is likely your corporation has already obtained an NPI for your location.

♦ Before starting the NPI application process, collect the following information for your organization:

Organization Name

EIN

Name of Authorized Official

Phone Number of Authorized Official

Organization Mailing Address

Practice Location Address

Practice Phone Number

Taxonomy Code (Provider Type)

State License Information

Contact Person Name

Contact Person Phone Number and Email

♦ Pharmacies that do not already have an NPI have three options to apply for one:

1. Allow NCPDP to submit your pharmacy's NPI application to the NPPES electronically. Once the NPI is issued, NCPDP will provide it back to you. Allowing NCPDP to obtain your NPI for you insures your pharmacy's information is kept current on the NCPDP Pharmacy Database. For more informa-

tion visit *www.ncpdp.org* and click on *NPI Information/ Obtain an NPI*.

2. Apply for an NPI online using the NPPES web-based application system. The web address is *nppes.cms.hhs.gov.*

3. Request a paper application by calling 1-800-465-3203.

♦ DME suppliers that do not already have an NPI have two options to apply for one:

1. Apply for an NPI online using the NPPES web-based application system. The web address is *nppes.cms.hhs.gov*.

2. Request a paper application by calling 1-800-465-3203.

Resources

Providers are encouraged to use the following resources:

♦ To learn more about the National Provider Identifier (NPI) Final Rule, NPI application process, and to access information resources, visit: *www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/npi/01ove rview.asp*

♦ The NPI Viewlet. The Web-based instructional tool provides an over-

view of the NPI and a step-by-step demonstration of the NPI application. The viewlet can be found at *www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/npi/n piviewlet.asp*.

♦ The CMS NPI Dear Health Care Provider letter. This letter (especially page two) contains critical information about the application process. The letter can be found at *www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2/ regulations/identifiers/NPI% 20Dear%Provider%Final.pdf*.

♦ The CMS Web site at *www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2/* for the following:

√ Frequently asked questions. Select "Frequently Asked Questions" under "General Information."

√ General information about the NPI and the Final Rule. Select "Identifier Standards: under "Regulations and Standards."

HIPAA NEWS

OFFICE OF HEALTHCARE FINANCING

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What's new with HIPAA?

National Provider Identifiers (NPI)!

Check out what's happening with Wyoming Medicaid and NPI.

Mission

We envision a Wyoming in which all citizens are able to achieve their maximum health potential; a Wyoming in which early intervention, wellness, health promotion, and health maintenance programs are the primary approach for solving health problems; a Wyoming in which all citizens have regular access to basic health care; a Wyoming in which atrisk citizens receive culturally appropriate and sensitive services; a Wyoming in which we and future generations are healthy, vital, and productive so as to seize the opportunity to live our individual dreams and enjoy the benefits of our bountiful resources and natural beauty.

The Wyoming Department of Health is the primary State agency for providing health and human services. It administers programs maintaining the health and safety of all citizens of Wyoming.

Commit to your health.

Wyoming Department of Health

Our mission is to promote, protect and enhance the health of all Wyoming Citizens.

Wyoming Department of Health
Office of Healthcare Financing

Visit our website at
http://wdh.state.wy.us/medicaid