

Date: 08/16/07

Web Announcement 154

UPDATE: NPPES Dissemination of Data Scheduled to Begin Sept. 4, 2007

The National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) health care provider data that is disclosable under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) will be disclosed to the public by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) beginning Sept. 4, 2007. In accordance with the e-FOIA Amendments, CMS will be disclosing this data via the Internet in two forms:

1. A query-only database, known as the NPI Registry.
2. A downloadable file.

CMS is extending the period of time in which enumerated health care providers can view their FOIA-disclosable NPPES data and make any edits they feel are necessary prior to their initial disclosure of the data. In order to ensure edits are reflected in the NPI Registry when it first becomes operational and in the first downloadable file, health care providers need to submit their edits no later than Monday, Aug. 20, 2007.

The NPI Registry will become operational on Sept. 4 and the downloadable file of FOIA-disclosable NPPES health care provider data will be ready approximately one week later. Once the list is published, a link to the list will be provided on the First Health Services website.

Health care providers should refer to the document titled, "Information on FOIA-Disclosable Data Elements in NPPES," dated June 20, 2007 (found on the CMS NPI webpage at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/Downloads/NPPES_FOIA_Data%20Elements_062007.pdf) for assistance in making their edits.

Some of the key data elements that are FOIA-disclosable are:

- NPI
- Entity Type Code (1-Individual or 2-Organization)
- Replacement NPI
- Provider Name (First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Prefix, Suffix, Credential(s), OR the Legal Business Name for Organizations)
- Provider Other Name (First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, OR "Doing Business As" Name, Former Legal Business Name, Other Name for Organizations)

- Provider Business Mailing Address (First line address, Second line address, City, State, Postal Code, and Country Code if outside U.S., Telephone Number, Fax Number)
- Provider Business Location Address (First line address, Second line address, City, State, Postal Code, and Country Code if outside U.S., Telephone Number, Fax Number)
- Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Code(s)
- Other Provider Identifier(s)
- Other Provider Identifier Type Code
- Provider Enumeration Date
- Last Update Date
- NPI Deactivation Reason Code
- NPI Deactivation Date
- NPI Reactivation Date
- Provider Gender Code
- Provider License Number
- Provider License Number State Code
- Authorized Official Contact Information (First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Title or Position, Telephone Number)

Confused? Not sure what an NPI is and how you can get it, share it and use it? As always, more information and education on the NPI can be found through the CMS NPI page www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand on the CMS website. Providers can apply for an NPI online at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> or can call the NPI enumerator to request a paper application at (800) 465-3203.

Getting an NPI is free – not having one can be costly.