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# Web Announcement 141

## New CMS NPI Contingency FAQs and Reminders

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has posted on its website new frequently asked questions (FAQs) related to the National Provider Identifier (NPI) Compliance Contingency, which allows State agencies to extend the compliance date for NPI.

New FAQs include:

- Why is the contingency period limited at all?
- How does this guidance differ from the recommendations made to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) by the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS)?
- I am a provider. What should I do now to determine how this guidance affects me?
- Does this mean that providers have an additional 12 months to obtain and begin using NPIs?
- Will Medicare have a contingency plan and what will it be? (#8320)
- How will covered entities decide when to end their contingency plans?

To view these FAQs, please go to the CMS NPI webpage at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/> and scroll down to the section that says “Related Links Inside CMS” and click on “NPI Frequently Asked Questions.” To find the latest FAQs, click on the arrows next to “Date Updated.”

**Upcoming WEDI Events:** The Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) will host the 16th Annual WEDI National Conference May 14-17, 2007, in Baltimore, Maryland. Visit the WEDI website for more details on this event, as well as others, at <http://www.wedi.org/npioi/index.shtml>. Please note that there is a charge to participate in WEDI events.

**Revisions to the NPPES Website:** CMS is revising some of the language on the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) NPI Application Help page that relates to the selection of the “Entity Type.” Among other changes, the revision will remove a reference to “atypical services.” This reference is being removed because entities who furnish only “atypical services” are not eligible to apply for NPIs. The website address is <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>.

**SHARE YOUR NPI:** Do you have your NPI and don't know what to do with it? Share it. Share it with health plans you bill and the colleagues who rely on having your NPI to submit their claims (e.g., those who bill for ordered or referred services). You should also share it with your business associates, such as a billing service, vendor or clearinghouse. Pay attention to information from health plans with which you do business as to when they will begin accepting the NPI on claims and in other standard transactions.

**USE YOUR NPI:** Once your health plans have informed you that they are ready to accept NPIs, begin the testing process. Consider sending only a few claims at first as you test the ability of plans to accept NPI. Fewer claims will make it easier to keep track of status and payment, as well as troubleshooting any potential problems that may arise during the testing process.

*Still 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 at the CMS website at [www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand). 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.*