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Web Announcement 189

NPI Reminders from CMS and Nevada Medicaid/Nevada Check Up

One of the Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA, Title II) requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish unique national identifiers for providers (the National Provider Identifier – NPI). The purpose of these provisions is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the electronic transmission of health information.

The following reminders have been issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for all providers regarding NPI.

As of May 23, 2008, NPI will be required for all HIPAA standard transactions. This means that for all primary and secondary provider fields, only NPI will be accepted and sent on all HIPAA electronic transactions (837I, 837P, direct data entry (DDE), 276/277, 270/271 and 835), paper claims (UB-04 and CMS-1500) and standard paper remittance advices (SPR).

CMS is anticipating that some providers will experience some problems with claims in the following situations:

- The provider does not have an NPI.
- The provider does not submit their NPI on their claim.
- The provider has already received an NPI, but the NPI is not consistent with the provider's enrollment information received by the contractor [e.g., Nevada Medicaid].

Test NPI-only NOW – If you have been submitting claims with both an NPI and a legacy number [Medicaid or Medicare] and those claims have been paid, you need to test your ability to get paid using only your NPI by submitting one or two claims today with just NPI [i.e., no Medicaid or Medicare legacy numbers]. If the claim(s) is processed and you are paid, continue to increase the volume of claims sent with only your NPI.

If claims with NPI are not being adjudicated, Nevada Medicaid/Nevada Check Up providers are reminded to verify that their correct NPI is entered on their claim submissions and to verify that their service centers/clearinghouses are ready to process claims with NPI.

CMS has found a significant number of instances where either the Legal Business Name (LBN) and/or Employer Identification Number (EIN) of an organization health care provider who has been assigned an NPI do not match Internal Revenue Service (IRS) records. In some cases, this is caused by health care providers who are individuals who erroneously applied for NPIs as organizations and who reported their Social Security Numbers in the EIN field. As a first step to improving the quality of information in NPPES, the CMS is requesting that organization health care providers verify their LBN and EIN within NPPES at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>. This is especially important if the organization health care provider is using NPI on claims now and is experiencing any claims processing issues.

Need More Information?

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 1-800-465-3203.

Note: All current and past CMS NPI communications are available by clicking “CMS Communications” in the left column of the CMS webpage at www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand.