

## **National Provider Identifier (NPI) Overview**

### **What Is It?**

- The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Administrative Simplification Standard. The NPI is a unique identification number for covered health care providers. Covered health care providers and all health plans and health care clearinghouses will use the NPI in the administrative and financial transactions adopted under HIPAA. The NPI is a 10-position, intelligence-free numeric identifier (10-digit number). This means that the numbers do not carry information about healthcare providers, such as the state in which they live or their medical specialty. As outlined in the Federal Regulation, The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), covered providers must also share their NPI with other providers, health plans, clearinghouses, and any entity that may need it for billing purposes.
- Since May 23, 2007, the National Provider Identifier (NPI) has been mandated for use in electronic health care transactions. NYS Medicaid will transition to use of the NPI for all providers that meet the definition of “health care providers” regardless of whether they perform covered electronic healthcare transactions.
- The New York State implementation of NPI also requires each provider identified, or represented, in a covered healthcare transaction be identified by their NPI. This concerns all providers who perform services that require an ordering, referring or prescribing provider, especially true for lab, pharmacy and durable medical equipment providers.

### **Who Must Obtain an NPI?**

- Individuals identified in any covered electronic healthcare transaction must obtain an NPI that remains associated with the individual for life.
- Since Attending Providers may no longer be identified using the NYS license numbers, the NPI will be required. It is critical NYS is able to link NPI information to the state license number in order to maintain provider edit capabilities. To facilitate this, clinics, hospitals and other facilities are required to maintain an up-to-date “roster” of Attending Providers.
- As a result of both the NPI Final Rule and an Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) initiative, the NPI of a clinic, hospital, or other facility will no longer be accepted as an Attending Provider. Affiliation of Attending Providers with facilities will enable eMedNY to validate the relationship between the Attending Provider and the Billing Provider. It should be noted the OMIG has expressed their intent to review provider

information reported in claim transactions, and that a claim will be denied if the Attending Provider's NPI is not "linked" to the Billing Provider's NPI.

- The Facility Affiliated Practitioner NPI Application allows facilities to record NPIs and licenses for attending providers that are affiliated with the facility and may be included as a provider on claims submitted by the facility to NYS Medicaid. Facilities with multiple NPIs must maintain a separate roster for each NPI. Before the affiliation can take place, the facility must first REGISTER their NPI with NYS Medicaid. Note that registration is not the same as affiliation.

### **How Do I Obtain an NPI?**

- Providers may request an NPI electronically at the following site:  
<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/>
- Please note that electronic applications allow providers to supply and identify current proprietary identifiers of multiple payers. It is important to associate each proprietary identifier to the applicable payer.
- Health care providers can agree to have an Electronic File Interchange (EFI) organization (EFIO) submit application data on their behalf (i.e., through a bulk enumeration process) if an EFIO requests their permission to do so; or,
- Health care providers may wish to obtain a copy of the paper NPI Application/Update Form (CMS-10114) and mail the completed, signed application to the NPI Enumerator located in Fargo, ND, whereby staff at the NPI Enumerator will enter the application data into NPPES. (The form is available only upon request through the NPI Enumerator.) Health care providers who wish to obtain a copy of this form must contact the NPI Enumerator in any of these ways:

1. Phone: 1-800-465-3203 or TTY 1-800-692-2326
2. E-mail: [customerservice@npienumerator.com](mailto:customerservice@npienumerator.com)
3. Mail: NPI Enumerator  
P.O. Box 6059  
Fargo, ND 58108-6059

### **What Will the NPI Do?**

- Replace the use of all legacy provider identifiers (e.g., UPIN, License Number, Medicaid Provider Number, Medicare Provider Number, Blue Cross

and Blue Shield Numbers) in HIPAA standard transactions as of the compliance date.

- It will simplify transactions, including claims and coordination of benefits, and should save money in the long term.

### **Where Can I Find More Information?**

- Additional information on the NPI is available from CMS at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand> or you may call The CMS HIPAA hot line at 1-800-465-3203.
- CMS NPI Viewlet provides an overview of the NPI, a walkthrough of the NPI application process and a live link to the NPPES website. The Viewlet is available under the above website. Just look under Educational Resources.
- Medicaid will be providing extensive information on our approach as we proceed with our development efforts. We will also be posting information regularly at <http://www.emedny.org> and share information in the Medicaid Update publication.
- Additional questions should be referred to the CSC call center at 800-343-9000.