

CMS NPI Announcements- January-April 2006

1. Announcing the redesigned CMS web page dedicated to providing all the latest NPI news for health care providers! Visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/> on the web. This page also contains a section for Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) providers with helpful information on the Medicare NPI implementation. A new fact sheet with answers to questions that health care providers may have regarding the NPI is now available on the web page; bookmark this page as new information and resources will continue to be posted.

For more information on private industry NPI outreach, visit the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) NPI Outreach Initiative website at <http://www.wedi.org/npioi/index.shtml> on the web.

2. NPI News: CMS released several documents on the Electronic File Interchange (EFI) process this week. EFI, also referred to as "bulk enumeration," is a process by which a health care provider or group of providers can have a particular organization (the "EFIO") apply for National Provider Identifiers (NPI) on their behalf. EFI documents posted to the web include a summary, user's guide and technical companion manual.

A new Fact Sheet for health care providers who are individuals is also now available.

Visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/> to download these new items.

3. NPI Tip

When applying for your NPI, CMS urges you to include your legacy identifiers, not only for Medicare but for all payors. If reporting a Medicaid number, include the associated State name. This information is critical for payors in the development of crosswalks to aid in the transition to the NPI.

New Educational Products

CMS has released three new educational products on the National Provider Identifier (NPI):

Suitable for All Health Care Providers

A Subparts Fact Sheet that contains high-level information on Medicare's guidance on subpart designation. Although the guidance is geared toward Medicare organization providers, non-Medicare organization providers may find it helpful.

An Electronic File Interchange (EFI) Fact Sheet that contains basic information and links to helpful resources that will prepare providers and their staff for the release of the EFI system. This information is essential for organizations that wish to submit electronic files for bulk enumeration, and may be of interest to any health care provider for whom an organization will be submitting NPI application data.

Suitable for Medicare Providers

A MLN Matters Article (SE0608) that takes a detailed look at Medicare's guidance on subpart designation and the impact on Medicare providers.

Visit the Educational Resources link at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/> to view these new products, as well as existing products such as: four MLN Matters articles, two fact sheets and the NPI Viewlet.

For more information on private industry NPI outreach, including upcoming meetings, visit the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) NPI Outreach Initiative website at <http://www.wedi.org/npioi/index.shtml> on the web.

4. NPI Tip

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Revised EFI Materials

The EFI Summary, User Manual and Technical Companion Guide have all been revised. Please visit

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/07_efi.asp to view and download these revised materials.