

MHDC NPI ADVISORY

Release 3 - May 2005



Subject: National Provider Identifiers (NPI)

BRINGING YOU UP-TO-DATE!

May 23, 2005 is rapidly approaching – the date covered providers can begin to apply for their NPI!!

This edition of the *NPI Advisory* is focused on the application process and describes the options available to get your NPI (bulk enumeration or individual enumeration) and to let you know of important upcoming events.

WHAT IS ENUMERATION?

The National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES), being built under a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contract, will serve as the data repository for all the NPI-related information. A separate CMS contractor, known as the NPI Enumerator, will perform provider registration and updates from health care providers.

The options for requesting an application for NPI:

Option 1 – BULK ENUMERATION – The process by which you submit multiple enumeration requests.

- For physicians only: The Board of Registration in Medicine (the state physician licensing board) for both initial licenses and renewals
- Private, reputable third party vendors
- Organizations with multiple providers (e.g., physician groups), if applicable

Option 2 – INDIVIDUAL ENUMERATION – The process by which you submit one enumeration request.

- CMS web site
- NPI Fairs (which may be held at your organization)

Any entity considering enumeration, bulk or individual, must obtain authorization, in writing to enumerate each provider.

UPCOMING NPI EVENTS:

- **May 19, 2005:** Live Audio conference on NPI will be held from 12:30 – 1:30 pm. If you are not signed up for the conference but would like to have the presentation information, you can download the information from http://www.mahealthdata.org/hipaa/resources/identifiers/20050519_NPI-audioconf.html

Please note: You can download the newest version of Adobe Reader (7.0) at <http://www.adobe.com/products>

- **June 9, 2005:** MAMSS (Massachusetts Association of Medical Staff Services) conference to be held from 10:00 – 11:00 am at the SeaCrest Resort in Falmouth, MA. If you are interested in registering for this conference, please contact Nancy Dunn at nancy.dunn@childrens.harvard.edu

IMPORTANT DATES:

May 23, 2005 - Providers can begin to apply for their NPIs via the web application.

July 1, 2005 – All applications, paper and web, will be accepted.

October 2006 – CMS deadline for using NPI on Medicare bills.

May 2007 – Large health plans must begin using the NPI.

May 2008 – Small health plans must begin using the NPI.

REMINDERS:

- Communicate internally and externally with associates and providers to **deliver a consistent message**.
- **Decide** who will be applying for an NPI on the provider's behalf and obtain authorization.
- **Continue to review** your process flow for capturing and maintaining provider data throughout your organization – from planning/marketing all the way through payment/EOB and Medical Records.
- Providers should give **authorization to only one entity** to apply for an NPI on their behalf.
- Remember providers will be able to apply for an NPI for **no cost** on a CMS web site soon.

You may obtain information about the NPI at www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2. This site contains Frequently Asked Questions and other information related to the NPI and other HIPAA standards.

Beginning May 23, 2005, we will also provide up-to-date information about the NPI, such as when and how to apply on the NPPES web site at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>, or you may call the Enumerator at 1-800-465-3203 or TTY 1-800-692-2326.

For more information on the WEDI White Paper on the NPI: <http://wedi.org/snip/public/articles>