

MHDC NPI ADVISORY

Release 4 - October 2005



Subject: National Provider Identifiers (NPI)

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW!

With the support of a broad base group of health care stakeholders, the Board of Registration in Medicine (BORIM) is acting as a clearinghouse for physician NPIs in Massachusetts. BORIM can reduce the administrative burden for physicians by processing a request to obtain an NPI number on their behalf. A physician may choose to (1) obtain his/her own NPI number, (2) have a hospital or health plan secure the number on his/her behalf, or (3) take advantage of this free service from BORIM by completing the BORIM License Renewal Form.

BORIM is attempting to get other licensing boards in the state to follow their lead and serve as NPI clearinghouses. The Massachusetts Board of Nursing is currently conferring with BORIM to understand how to implement this process.

This free service by BORIM started with the December license renewal application mailed to physicians in August. Already 400 physicians have instructed BORIM to obtain an NPI on their behalf.

BORIM has indicated that physician NPIs will be available on their secure web site once it has been obtained.

IMPORTANT STATUS UPDATE:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is still in the process of developing policies regarding Electronic File Interchange (EFI), formerly known as Bulk Enumeration and the dissemination of the NPIs. Stay tuned for more information on these important topics.

UPCOMING NPI EVENTS:

November 8, 2005: The Massachusetts Hospital Association (MHA) will hold a member briefing titled "HIPAA NPI – Operations and Implementation". The Briefing will be held at the MHA offices in Burlington from 1:00 – 5:00 pm. The briefing will include operational information as well as reactor panels of providers, payers and vendors. For directions or to register for the briefing, please visit the MHA web site at www.mhalink.org.

IMPORTANT DATES:

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

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

October 2006 – CMS deadline for using NPI on Medicare bills* (see below)

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

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

REMINDERS:

Beginning **January 2, 2006**, CMS will accept NPIs in addition to the legacy identifiers on Medicare claims. Billing providers must include the legacy identifier. The UB 92 and the HCFA 1500 claim forms will include a space for both numbers.

IMPORTANT WEB ADDRESSES

Information about the NPI is available at www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2. This site contains Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and other information related to the NPI and other HIPAA.

More information about BORIM and the NPI process is available at www.massmedboard.org

On May 23, 2005, CMS began providing up-to-date information about the NPI, such as when and how to apply for an NPI on the NPPES web site at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>. Providers also 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>