

MHDC NPI ADVISORY

Release 5 - January 2006



Subject: National Provider Identifier (NPI)

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW!

The Massachusetts Health Data Consortium (MHDC) NPI Workgroup is currently working on a number of initiatives to facilitate the process by which provider organizations obtain NPIs and test them with health plans.

The Workgroup is developing a structured communication process between MA health plans and hospitals and other "complex" providers. This process would allow payers/providers to address the subpart issues/decisions consistently, using common language and tools. The Workgroup is creating a common documentation format ("provider profile") that could be used by providers to outline the **old identifier schema** and communicate the **proposed new NPI schema** to each payer.

The Workgroup is also actively working to provide educational outreach on NPI and sub-parts to complex providers. The planned format for this educational outreach is audio conference/web casts. The Workgroup is pursuing promotional ideas to help market the audio conference/web casts to the targeted organizations.

Since we are getting closer and closer to the compliance date of May 2007, the plan is to have the first audio conference/web cast in February 2006 with 2 or 3 additional programs in 2006.

IMPORTANT STATUS UPDATE- FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has recently released the draft EFI Certification Statement, detailing requirements for EFI organizations (EFIOs). EFI or electronic file interchange (formerly known as bulk enumeration) has been a source of debate over the ability of EFIOs to disseminate NPIs to other organizations. It appears that the dissemination issue is addressed in this document. However, it remains unclear when EFI certification will be implemented by CMS. Stay tuned for updates in this area!

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.

SAVE THE DATE:

Watch for the dates of the February audio conference/web cast! Details to follow.

REMINDERS:

Beginning **October 2006**, CMS systems will accept an existing legacy Medicare billing number and/or an NPI on claims. If there is any issue with the provider's NPI and no Medicare legacy identifier is submitted, the provider may not be paid for the claim. Therefore, Medicare strongly recommends that providers, clearinghouses, and billing services continue to submit the Medicare legacy identifier as a secondary identifier.

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 Board of Registration in Medicine (BORIM) and the process they have implemented to acquire NPIs on behalf of MA physicians 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>