

MHDC NPI ADVISORY

Release 6 - April 2006



National Provider Identifier (NPI) UPDATE

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW!

The Massachusetts Health Data Consortium (MHDC) sponsored a February 2006 audio conference on subparts and a common approach for complex provider organizations. The audio conference was very well received: over 300 providers participated on the audio conference. MHDC analyzed the evaluations as well as written comments and suggestions. These will be used to plan for future educational sessions, and Q&A will be posted on MHDC web site under "identifiers".

The Workgroup has created a structured communication process between Massachusetts health plans and hospitals and other "complex" providers. This process would allow payers/providers to address the subpart issues and 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 format** and communicate the **proposed new NPI format** to each payer.

The Workgroup met April 12 and discussed the covered entity status, and additional educational opportunities. The next scheduled meeting will be in June.

IMPORTANT STATUS UPDATE- FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has recently released the electronic file interchange (EFI) Certification Statement, detailing requirements for EFI organizations (EFIOs). EFI (formerly known as bulk enumeration) has been a source of debate over the ability of EFIOs to disseminate NPIs to other organizations. You can obtain the EFI Certification Statement at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms/downloads/cms10175.pdf>

IMPORTANT DATES

May 23, 2005 - Providers could begin applying 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 claims* (see below)

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 15th Annual WEDI National Conference will be held May 22 - 25, 2006 in Baltimore, MD. For more information, please visit <http://wedi.org/>

Massachusetts Hospital Association - HIPAA NPI Implementation, "Beyond the Tip of the Iceberg!", July 13, 2006. For more information, please visit: <http://www.mhalink.org/public/education/>

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 <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProviderStand/>. This site contains Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and other information related to the NPI.

Information from the 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 NPI white papers: <http://wedi.org/snip/public/articles>. You must be a WEDI member to download the white papers.