

June 1, 2008
Provider Bulletin

Use Your National Provider Identifier (NPI) to Submit Claims

The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is the standard unique identifier the CMS (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services) requires every health care provider to have and begin using by May 23, 2008. The use of the NPI is a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) mandate for all covered entities. **Obtaining your NPI and using it will make processing and paying your claims more efficient and accurate for all parties.**

NPI Requirements

We don't want you to miss a single payment because of noncompliance. Please ensure that you include the following elements on your claims:

- Tax ID
- Billing NPI, name and address
- Rendering NPI, name and address
- Taxonomy Code

Please note: The requirement impacts **all** claim transactions. BlueChoice HealthPlan requires providers to file paper claims using NPIs in lieu of the legacy ID for consistency in claims filing.

On the CMS-1450 (UB-04) form enter the:

- facility NPI in box 56, and
- taxonomy code and qualifier in box 81.

On the CMS-1500 form enter the:

- taxonomy code qualifier in box 24I,
- taxonomy code in the shaded field of box 24j,
- rendering provider NPI in the unshaded field of box 24j,
- service facility NPI in box 32A, if appropriate, and
- billing provider NPI in box 33A.

It is important that you bill with the most appropriate NPI number that is assigned to you. To verify your NPI number assignment, please use the National Plan and Provider Enumeration system (NPPES) website at **www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov**.

In addition to the information above, we have also created the "Professional 837P Enumeration and Contractual Report", "Institutional 837 enumeration and Contractual Report" and other documents for your review and use. Go to **www.BlueChoiceSCMedicaid.com** to read more about additional electronic 837 billing information.

Rendering and Billing Providers

Health care providers may fall in one of two categories when applying for an NPI:

- **Rendering (Type 1) Providers** — Health care providers who are individuals, including physicians, dentists, specialists, chiropractors and sole proprietors. An individual is eligible for only one NPI.
- **Billing (Type 2) Providers** — Health care providers that are organizations, including physician groups, hospitals, residential treatment centers, laboratories, and group practices, and the corporation formed when an individual incorporates as a legal entity.

National Provider Identifier: Get it. Use it. Share it.

If you don't have an NPI number, visit the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services website at **www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand** or dial **1-800-465-3203**. For the most efficient application processing and the fastest receipt of NPIs, visit the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System website at **www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov** and apply online.

Then, register your NPI with us at **<https://npi.wellpoint.com>**. Getting an NPI is free, but not having one can be costly.