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We
welcome
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Medicare Minutes

National Provider Identifier: Get One by May 23, 2007

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) reports that more than 1.4 million National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) have been issued. Do you have yours? Every healthcare provider who bills Medicare for services will need a tested and working NPI by **May 23, 2007**.

Because NPI implementation is complex and impacts all business functions of your practice, get an NPI by **January 31, 2007**, and begin testing and sharing it now.

Key NPI Facts

- Every covered healthcare provider must get and use an NPI. Even those who do not conduct electronic transactions may still be required by health plans or employers to obtain an NPI. Sole proprietors can have only 1 NPI.
- The NPI affects internal and external business and systems operations and can affect timely payment of claims.
- Include legacy identifiers on your NPI application.
- Begin testing and using your NPIs in electronic healthcare transactions by **January 31, 2007**.
- Share your NPIs with other providers, health plans, clear-

inghouses, and entities that may need it for billing purposes—including designation of ordering or referring physician. Consider letting health plans, or institutions for whom you work, share your numbers for you.

- Apply for a free NPI online at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> or call the NPI enumerator to request a paper application at 1-800-465-3203.

NPI Questions

Many NPI questions that providers and their staff may have can be answered by the resources provided on the CMS NPI page. The “NPI Question Resource Sheet” points to specific resources that can help answer common questions. See: www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/07_Questions.asp#TopOfPage

Communicating Your NPI to Medicare

There is no “special process” necessary to communicate your NPI to Medicare.

- Use your NPI, along with appropriate legacy identifiers, on your Medicare claims.
- If you are a new Medicare provider, include an NPI on the CMS-855 enrollment application.
- If you are an existing Medicare provider, include your NPI when making any changes to your Medicare enrollment information.

For more information

Find more information on the NPI at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand>. **MPM**