

NPIs Required for All Health Care Providers Submitting Standard Electronic Transactions

The National Provider Identifier (NPI) must be used by health care providers, health care clearinghouses and health plans that conduct standard transactions under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

All health care providers who transmit electronic transactions are required to obtain an NPI by May 23, 2007. *This applies even if business associates such as billing agencies are used to prepare the transactions.*

It appears that some small providers are under the impression that they are not required to apply and use NPIs until May 23, 2008. Please note that this exception is only for small health plans **not** for small health care providers. **Small health care providers are required to apply and use NPIs by May 23, 2007.**

It is important that health care providers submit both their NPI and legacy provider number on Medicare claims to ensure they are properly processed. Claims submitted with only an NPI that Medicare systems are unable to properly match with a legacy number (e.g., Provider Identification Number (PIN), Online Survey Certification and Report (OSCAR) number), may be rejected, and providers will be required to resubmit the claim with the appropriate legacy number.

Direct Data Entry (DDE)/Gateway Production Network (GPNet) users are encouraged to begin testing their NPI when submitting Medicare Part A claims to TrailBlazer. When submitting these claims, providers should only enter the NPI. The provider's legacy number should not be included on the claim. This will test to ensure the Fiscal Intermediary Standard System (FISS) will accept the claim with only the NPI. Please refer to the notice, [Testing of Claims With Only an NPI Submitted Via DDE/GPNet](#) for additional information.

How to Apply

Health care providers can apply for an NPI online by accessing the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) Web site at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>.

A paper NPI Application/Update Form (CMS-10114) is available only upon request through the NPI Enumerator. Health care providers who wish to obtain a copy of this form must contact the NPI Enumerator as follows:

Call: (800) 465-3203 or TTY (800) 692-2326.
E-mail: customerservice@npienumerator.com.
Mail: NPI Enumerator
P.O. Box 6059
Fargo, ND 58108-6059

Additional Resources

The [CMS NPI Web page](#) contains information and links to fact sheets, educational resources and MLN Matters articles to assist health care providers with questions about applying for an NPI and preparing for NPI implementation.

The [TrailBlazer home page](#) and [Self-Service Options Web page](#) include NPI notices, job aids, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and links to important NPI information.