

National Provider Identifier (NPI)

What is it?

The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is designed to uniquely identify a health care provider in standard transactions, such as health care claims. It uses all numeric characters and is ten positions in length. The first nine positions are the identifier and the last position is a check digit which is used to detect invalid NPI numbers.

The NPI will replace the use of all legacy provider identifiers – the UPIN, Medicaid Provider Number, and other third party payor numbers.

Why is it necessary?

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires that covered entities (e.g. health plans, health care clearinghouses, and those health care providers who transmit any health information in electronic form in connection with a transaction for which the Secretary of Health and Human Services [HHS] has adopted a standard) use NPIs in standard transactions by the compliance date of May 23, 2007.

The NPI number itself does not convey any information about the provider. Also, this number, once assigned, will never change and may be deactivated/reactivated.

How to apply for an NPI number:

There are two ways to apply for an NPI number: online or regular postal mail.

For the most efficient and fastest receipt of your NPI, the online method is recommended. To apply online, go to <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>.

To apply by mail, print the request form from <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> and send the completed application to:

NPI Enumerator
P.O. Box 6059
Fargo, ND 58108-6059

Because of the volume of requests expected, providers are encouraged to apply early and allow time to receive the number from the enumerator.

If application processing detects a problem, the enumerator will communicate with the provider.

National Provider Identifier (NPI), continued

For Medicaid: What to do once you have an NPI number:

Once the NPI number is received, it should be submitted to Electronic Data Systems (EDS) using the NPI Notification Form available from EDS. EDS is ready to receive this information.

Providers will need to send:

- The completed NPI Notification Form
- A copy of the NPI notification letter received from the enumerator to EDS. The documents can be mailed to the address on the form or faxed to the number indicated on the form. A copy of the Notification Form will be available soon on the Alabama Medicaid website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov under Billing/Forms/Provider Enrollment Forms.

Note: Providers will continue to submit claims with their current Alabama Medicaid-issued provider numbers until the new system to accommodate NPI numbers is implemented on May 23, 2007.

Other questions regarding NPI:

If you have questions regarding how to fill out the NPI Notification Form, contact your Provider Representative at 1-800-688-7989 (within Alabama) or 334-215-0111 (outside Alabama).

**Remember, to ensure that claims are processed correctly on the new system, providers are asked to obtain all NPI number(s) needed and provide this information to EDS as soon as possible, but no later than April 1, 2007.

2006 HID Help Desk Holiday Hours

Thanksgiving Day—November 23rd—Closed

November 24th—Regular Business Hours

Christmas Day —December 25th—Closed

December 26th—Regular Business Hours

New Years Day—Jan 1, 2007—Closed

