

Date: 10/17/06

# Web Announcement 106

## **NPI: Will You Be Ready With Your Identifier and Taxonomy Code?**

The following reminders regarding the National Provider Identifier (NPI) were issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

**GET IT:** The compliance date for NPI, May 23, 2007, is only **7 months** away. It's every provider's responsibility to make sure that an NPI is obtained if the provider is required to do so. If you're not sure, it's time to investigate. Get your NPI now so you have time to prepare **before** the compliance date. This includes sharing your NPI and appropriately testing it with payers to avoid a disruption in cash flow. To learn more on how to apply, visit [www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/) on the CMS website.

**SHARE IT:** Have your NPI and don't know what to do with it? Share it. Share it with health plans you bill and the colleagues who rely on having your NPI to submit their claims (e.g., those who bill for ordered or referred services). You should also share it with your billing service, vendor or clearinghouse, if you have any of them as business associates. Find out when and how the health plans with which you do business will begin accepting the NPI in claims and other standard transactions.

**Clarification of the Taxonomy Requirement:** Effective January 1, 2007, institutional Medicare providers who submit claims for their primary facility and its subparts (such as psychiatric unit, rehabilitation unit, etc.) must report a **Taxonomy Code** on all claims submitted to their Fiscal Intermediary. CMS posted an FAQ that clarifies this requirement. Go to the CMS.gov website and click on "Questions" in the blue banner (search for ID 7896).

**Legacy Identifiers on NPI Application:** CMS continues to urge providers to include legacy identifiers on their NPI applications. This will help all health plans, including Medicare, to get ready for May 23, 2007. If reporting a Medicaid legacy number, include the associated State name. If providers have already been assigned NPIs, CMS asks them to consider going back into the NPPES and updating their information with their legacy identifiers if they did not include those identifiers when they applied for NPIs. This information is critical for health plans and health care clearinghouses in the development of crosswalks to aid in the transition to the NPI.

*Getting an NPI is free - not having one can be costly.*

WA-101306-NPICMS2