

## **NPI Update 2008**

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As a result of HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) legislation, providers are required to apply for a NPI – National Provider Identifier - which will be utilized by all payors to identify providers on insurance claims. The NPI replaces all previously issued provider identifier numbers from Medicare and other plans. The deadline for receiving and initiating use of the NPI or the NPI/legacy number was March 1, 2008. According to Medicare, if a claim is submitted without an NPI on or after the March 1 date, the claim will be rejected. NPIs, once issued, remain with the physician even if he or she moves or joins or leaves a group.

If practicing physicians and fellows want to be paid for the work they perform after the NPI implementation deadline, the NPI must be listed on the insurance claim form. In addition, physicians who perform and bill for consultations will have to include the NPI of the physician requesting the consultation (primary care physician, etc) on the claim form. Having and sharing NPI with other providers is therefore critical to maintaining steady cash flow. Visit the following website <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/NPIRegistryHome.do> to search for the NPI of individual providers or organizations.

The following information is available about the physician:

### **Provider Information:**

#### **NPI Information:**

**NPI:**

**Entity Type:**

**Enumeration**

**Date:**

**Last Update Date:**

**Replacement NPI:**

**Deactivation**

**Reason:**

**Deactivation**

**Date:**

**Reactivation**

**Date:**

### **Provider Business Mailing Address:**

**Address:**

**Phone Number:**

**Fax Number:**

**Provider Business Practice Location Address:**

**Address:**

**Phone Number:**

**Fax Number:**

**Provider Taxonomy:**

Primary Taxonomy	Selected Taxonomy	State	License Number
Yes			

**Other Provider Identifier:**

Issuer	Number	State	Issuer
MEDICARE UPIN			
MEDICARE ID-Type Unspecified			

**So what do physicians need to do relative to the NPI?**

- If you are a resident, fellow, or practicing academic physician check with your institution – they may have already applied for a NPI number for you through a process known as “bulk enumeration.” Be sure you know what your NPI is so you can use it on subsequent applications and provide it to future employers. You will want to have applied for your NPI at least six months before entering practice regardless of setting. If you will be submitting claims for services, then you will need an NPI.
- If you are in a private practice setting, check with your office manager or administrator and confirm NPIs have been obtained for all physicians in the group as well as for the group practice itself. If the required NPIs have not been obtained, have your office manager or administrator visit <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do> to apply online.
- Work with your office manager or administrator to share your NPI with other physicians you regularly work with and obtain NPIs of physicians who regularly request your opinion in consultation. Many practices are sending letters to their referring physicians to get this process rolling; in that letter they are including their own NPIs.

Have your office manager or administrator ensure your billing system vendor has loaded your NPI numbers in the computer and formatted the claim form to include this new information when billing.