The National Provider Identifier (NPI) Fact Sheet

NPPES & NPI:

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 requires the adoption of a standard unique identifier for health care providers. The NPI Final Rule issued January 23, 2004, adopted the NPI as this standard.

The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is the 10-digit standard unique health identifier for health care providers. All health care providers may obtain an NPI. Health care providers are individuals or organizations that render health care as defined at 45 C.F.R. § 160.103.

The National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) maintained by CMS assigns NPI(s) to health care providers and is the database that stores and manages all NPIs.

Health plans including Medicare, Medicaid and private health plans require National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) in their administrative and financial transactions.

Two Types of NPIs:

Type 1: For individual health care providers, such as physicians, nurse practitioners and sole proprietors. Individuals are only eligible for one NPI.

Type 2: For health care organizations, such as hospitals, nursing homes, and physician groups. Organizations can have multiple NPIs.

An individual who is a health care provider and is incorporated, can obtain an NPI for themselves (Type 1) and an NPI for their corporation or LLC (Type 2).

Having an NPI does not:
- Ensure a provider is licensed or credentialed;
- Guarantee payment by a health plan;
- Enroll a provider in a health plan;

Three ways to obtain your NPI:

- Complete the on-line application at the NPPES web site; **nppes.cms.hhs.gov;**

- Download the paper application form at **CMS.gov**

- Authorize an employer or other trusted organization to obtain an NPI for you through bulk enumeration, or Electronic File Interchange (EFI). To learn more about EFI, visit **CMS.gov**

If you are a covered health care provider, you must report any changes to the information provided for your NPI within 30 days of the change.

Medicare and NPI: An NPI is required for Medicare enrollment. Obtaining an NPI does not replace the Medicare certification or enrollment process.

A provider or supplier will not receive payment from Medicare until it is properly certified and enrolled in the Medicare program.

Updates to a provider's NPI record in NPPES does not automatically update the provider's Medicare enrollment information.

Resources for Additional Information:
- **FAQ**
- **HIPAA-related guidance**
- **Educational Resources**
- **NPI Final Rule**