

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

CENTER FOR BENEFICIARY CHOICES

Date: October 30, 2007

To: All Medicare Advantage Organizations, Prescription Drug Plans, PACE Organizations and Demonstrations

From: Cynthia E. Moreno /s/
Director, Plan Oversight & Accountability Group

Subject: National Provider Identifier Implementation Status

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is monitoring implementation of the National Provider Identifier (NPI) as required in the HIPAA regulations at 45 CFR 162.404. All health and/or prescription drug plan are required to accept and send electronic transactions for all claims using only the NPI as the provider identifier in the transaction. Previous CMS guidance clarified that covered entities making a good faith effort to comply with the NPI provisions may implement contingencies through May 23, 2008, including accepting Legacy and NCPDP numbers on HIPAA transactions, in order to maintain operations and cash flows.

A request for status information on your NPI contingency plan, current NPI transaction volumes and any barriers to your implementation is attached to this memo. This information will help CMS monitor progress in meeting this requirement.

Simultaneous to the release of this memo, CMS is sending an email from Kimberly.August@cms.hhs.gov to each Medicare Advantage organization and Prescription Drug Plan with the link to the NPI Status Assessment Tool. Following instructions provided in the email, please click on the link in that email to complete and submit the tool electronically to CMS.

We are aware that some organizations will not receive the email due to firewall constraints. If your organization's compliance office did not receive the email notification, please paste the following link into your web browser to access and complete the tool: <http://vovici.com/wsb.dll/s/11dc4g2e1ff>

Please note that your organization's unique ID for accessing the tool is your CMS contract number (e.g. H0001; S0001). Organizations with more than one contract number may complete the tool once for each contract number, or alternatively, if responses are identical across contract numbers, send an email to Kimberly.August@cms.hhs.gov stating the contract number for which the tool was completed and listing the other contract numbers to which the responses apply.

Please complete the NPI Status Assessment Tool by November 12, 2007. If you have any questions please contact Kim August at (410) 786-1583.