

Dear State Medicaid Directors and Medicaid Information Systems Staff,

The Center for Medicaid and State Operations is requesting that you and your information systems staff do all you can to share the information in this correspondence regarding the National Provider Identifier (NPI) with all contractors, provider organizations, and anyone who would benefit from receiving it. There is an increasing sense of urgency with which the NPI announcements will be released by the NPI Outreach Subcommittee, which will be communicated in forthcoming announcements from CMS as the May 23, 2007 deadline nears.

Scheduled National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) Downtime

The NPPES will be upgraded on Monday, September 18, 2006, and will not be available to users from 5:00 a.m. Eastern Time through 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time on that day. The Data Center has told CMS that it is possible that some of this work might begin on Saturday, September 16, but this work is not expected to interrupt the operation of the NPPES. However, if users experience problems with NPPES on Saturday or Sunday, September 16 or 17, the problems are likely due to the upgrade processes, and users should wait until Monday afternoon, after 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time, to try again.

Change in Online Availability of NPI Application/Update Form (CMS-10114)

Beginning on September 20, 2006, the PDF version of the NPI Application/Update Form (CMS-10114) will no longer be available for download on the CMS forms website, and there will not be a link to that form from the NPPES page (<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>).

Health care providers can still, however, apply for National Provider Identifiers (NPI) in one of three ways.

- (1) For the most efficient application processing and the fastest receipt of NPIs, health care providers should consider using the web-based NPI application process. They can log onto the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) and apply online at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.doc>; or,
- (2) Health care providers can agree to have an Electronic File Interchange (EFI) organization (EFIO) submit application data on their behalf (i.e., through a bulk enumeration process) if an EFIO requests their permission to do so; or,
- (3) Health care providers may wish to obtain a copy of the paper NPI Application/Update Form (CMS-10114) and mail the completed, signed application to the NPI Enumerator located in Fargo, ND, whereby staff at the NPI Enumerator will enter the application data into NPPES. The form will be available only upon request through the NPI Enumerator. Health care providers

who wish to obtain a copy of this form must contact the NPI Enumerator in any of these ways:

Phone: 1-800-465-3203 or TTY 1-800-692-2326

E-mail: customerservice@npienumerator.com

Mail: NPI Enumerator

P.O. Box 6059

Fargo, ND 58108-6059

CMS NPI Roundtable – September 26, 2006

- CMS will host a national NPI Roundtable, open to all health care professionals, on Tuesday, September 26th from 2:00-3:30PM ET.
- To participate, you may call **1-877-203-0044, pass code 4795739**

CMS will address common questions related to Medicare's guidance on Subparts. While CMS will only address questions from a Medicare perspective, this information may be helpful to all providers.

Thank you,

Greg

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