



# National Provider Identifier

March 2005

N e w s l e t t e r



## The National Provider Identifier effective date is May 23, 2005!!!! Learn what you need to do to be prepared....

The Department of Health and Human Services adopted the Final Rule for the National Provider Identifier (NPI) as a standard unique identifier for health care providers on

January 23, 2004. This rule becomes effective May 23, 2005. The compliance date for the U.S. healthcare industry (except for small health plans) is May 23, 2007. After this date, the NPI must be used to identify providers in all HIPAA electronic transactions. The goal of the NPI is to simplify the administration of the health care system and enable efficient electronic transmission of health information.

### Who needs to get an NPI?

On January 26, 2005, Dr. Winkenwerder signed the HIPAA National Provider Identifier (NPI) Enumeration Policy for the Military Health System (MHS) Individual Health Care Providers. This policy **requires** certain MHS providers to obtain an NPI, including health care providers who furnish billable healthcare services or those who may initiate and/or receive referrals. In the MHS, this affects the following types of providers: **All Privileged Health Care Providers, Some Independent Duty Medical Technicians, Independent Duty Corpsmen, and Nurses** who request referrals or at times provide billable services. For example, a nurse giving a Depo-Provera injection when the patient has not seen the physician would need to be identified in certain HIPAA transactions and therefore, would need an NPI.

### Why is the NPI important to me as an individual provider?

The adoption of the NPI will eliminate the need for individual health care providers to have multiple identifiers for use when conducting HIPAA electronic transactions. This simplifies the administration of healthcare for providers, payers and claims processors, while decreasing the risk of Social Security Numbers being used fraudulently. When MHS providers transition into the civilian sector, they will need to use the same NPI upon submitting electronic claims, referrals and writing prescriptions.

### How will compliance with the NPI requirements benefit the Military Health System?

Use of the NPI to identify health care providers in HIPAA electronic transactions will help make billing and referrals more efficient resulting in time and cost savings for the Military Health System.

### Where can Providers Find More Information?

Please watch for guidance through your Surgeon General's Office prior to the effective date of the NPI Final Rule (May 23, 2005).

The TRICARE Office of HIPAA Electronic Standards has made several documents available online to provide additional information to providers. These materials include Fact Sheets, FAQs, and several poster designs. The posters can be sent to printers to produce larger images or simply be printed to distribute or post on a bulletin board. All materials can be found at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/hipaa/identifiers.html>.

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Please send any comments and suggestions to [hipaamail@tma.osd.mil](mailto:hipaamail@tma.osd.mil)



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April 2005

N e w s l e t t e r



## How will the NPI affect Reserve and Coast Guard Providers?

Health care providers may begin applying for their National Provider Identifier (NPI) after May 23, 2005. The HIPAA Rule seeks to enhance administrative simplification by providing a unique and lifelong NPI for each healthcare provider across the United States health care industry. The NPI will identify healthcare providers in HIPAA Standard electronic transactions (e.g., billing and referral purposes) and will eventually eliminate all other identifiers used in these transactions. Health care industry including the MHS must begin using the NPI in all transactions by May 23, 2007.

Reserve and Coast Guard providers will use their NPI in both their civilian and military practices. Early compliance is recommended. Providers that have not received an NPI prior to working in the MHS will be required to apply upon arrival at a facility. The TRICARE Management Activity and the Services are currently developing guidance on how Reserve and Coast Guard providers should submit their NPI once obtained. The MHS has determined that **All Privileged Health Care Providers, some Independent Duty Medical Technicians, Independent Duty Corpsmen, and Nurses** who request referrals or at times provide billable services will need to use the NPI. Please watch for guidance through your Surgeon General's Office prior to the effective date of the NPI Final Rule (May 23, 2005).

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### Key Points

- Each health care provider must obtain an NPI by paper or electronic application. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will provide a web application and more information on applying for the NPI.
- There will be two categories of health care providers for enumeration purposes.
  - Entity Type Code 1 is for individuals such as physicians, nurses, dentists, chiropractors, pharmacists, physical therapists.
  - Entity Type Code 2 is for organizations such as hospitals, clinics, military treatment facilities, pharmacies, laboratories, ambulance organizations, suppliers of durable medical equipment.
- The NPI is a 10-position numeric identifier.
- NPIs will not contain intelligence about the provider.

The TRICARE Office of HIPAA Electronic Standards has made several documents available online to provide additional information to providers. These materials include Fact Sheets, FAQs, and several poster designs. All materials can be found at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/hipaa/identifiers.html>.



Please send any comments and suggestions to [hipaamail@tma.osd.mil](mailto:hipaamail@tma.osd.mil)



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August 2005

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## Army Providers.....Get Ready, Set, Apply.

### It is now time to apply for your NPI, what do you need to know?



Health care providers began applying for their National Provider Identifier (NPI) on May 23, 2005. The NPI, a 10-digit number that will identify providers in standard electronic transactions, is a requirement of the Health Insurance Portability and

Accountability Act (HIPAA). The HIPAA NPI Rule seeks to enhance administrative simplification by providing a unique and lifelong NPI for each healthcare provider across the United States health care industry. The NPI will identify healthcare providers in HIPAA standard electronic transactions (e.g., billing and referral transactions) and will eventually eliminate all other identifiers used in these transactions. Health care industry including the Military Health System must begin using the NPI in all HIPAA transactions by May 23, 2007.

TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) has been working with the Services to determine who is affected by the NPI Rule. On January 26, 2005, Dr. Winkenwerder signed the HIPAA National Provider Identifier (NPI) Enumeration Policy for the MHS Individual Health Care Providers. This policy **requires** certain MHS providers to obtain an NPI, including health care providers who furnish billable healthcare services or those who may initiate and/or receive referrals. In the Army, this affects the following types of providers: **All Privileged Health Care Providers and Nurses** who request referrals or at times provide billable services. For example, a nurse giving a Depo-Provera injection when the patient has not seen the

physician may need to be identified in certain HIPAA transactions and therefore, would need an NPI.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with an enumerator to provide support for the NPI process. MHS providers can apply through either a web-based application or the paper application. The web address to apply is <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>. The paper application can be found at this address as well as by calling the Enumerator at 1-800-465-3203 or TTY 1-800-692-2326 to obtain a copy.

Once providers have received their NPI, they are responsible for providing this information to MHS. Active Duty Army providers should submit their NPI to the MTF Credentialing Office. Army Reserve Providers should submit their NPI to the Army Reserve Centralized Credentialing Affairs, with the exception of the Individual Mobilization Augmentees who should turn it in to their MTF of assignment. Army National Guard providers should submit their NPI to the State Surgeons Office where their credentialing office is located. These offices will forward a copy of the NPI letter to the appropriate Defense Medical Human Resources System-internet (DMHRSi) support office for entry of the NPI information into DMHRSi, the MHS repository for the NPI.

The TMA Office of HIPAA Electronic Standards has made several documents available online that additional information to providers. These materials include Fact Sheets, FAQs, and several posters. All materials can be found at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/hipaa/identifiers.html>.

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# National Provider Identifier

October 2005

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## National Provider Identifier Application Process Helpful Hints.....

### Office of HIPAA Electronic Standards

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Please send any comments and questions to  
[hipaamail@tma.osd.mil](mailto:hipaamail@tma.osd.mil)



**-Before you begin, make sure you have the following information\*\***

- Provider Name*
- SSN*
- Provider Date of Birth*
- Country of Birth*
- State of Birth (if Country of Birth is U.S.)*
- Mailing Address*
- Practice Location Address and Phone Number*
- Taxonomy (Provider Specialty)*
- State License Information\**
- Contact Person Name*
- Contact Person Phone Number and Email*

\*required for certain taxonomies only  
\*\*This information will be required to complete the NPI Application Form. You will not be able to save your work if you quit before you have completed the application form.

### Web Application Hints

- Use the application's navigation buttons, NEXT or PREVIOUS.
- Do NOT use the browser's buttons, BACK and FORWARD.
- If you have a problem with the system and cannot continue, wait 20 minutes before logging on again.
- Print each page as you complete the application to keep a record of your file. It is also important to save your username and password for future use.

### Paper Application Hints

- Do not staple the application pages together.
- Remember to print legibly or type your application.
- Include an original signature of the health care provider and a telephone number on the application. Do not send a photocopy of the signature or an application with a stamped signature. The name in the signature must match

### Paper and Web Application Hints

- To apply online or obtain an NPI application, please visit <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES>.
- Remember to select an entity type:

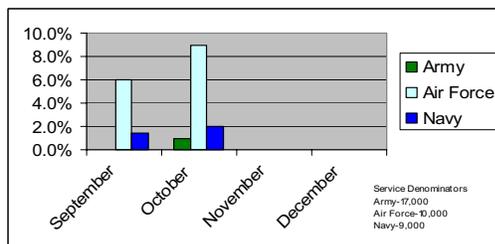
**Entity Type 1:** Health care providers who are individuals, need to complete sections 1, 2A, 3, 4A, and 5.

**Entity Type 2:** Health care providers who are organizations or subparts, need to complete sections 1, 2B, 3, 4B, and 5.

- Post office boxes may not be entered as practice location addresses.

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Race is On.....



Army: 8      Navy: 134      Air Force: 907



## Notice to Physician Assistants Applying for an NPI

Due to the inconsistency between state licensure requirements for Physician Assistants, CMS has made a change to the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System to allow Physician Assistants to obtain an NPI without having to furnish a license number and/or state of license.

The Service Denominators are not yet finalized.



# National Provider Identifier

January 2006

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## Office of HIPAA Electronic Standards

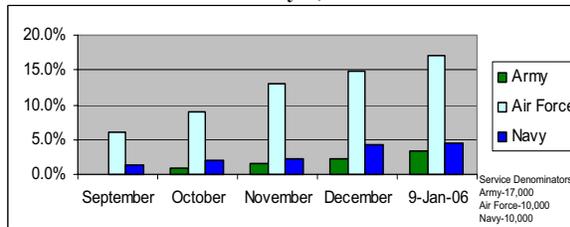
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### The Race is On.....

National Provider Identifier Type 1 Enumeration Status  
as of January 9, 2006



Army: 568

Navy: 457

Air Force: 1510

Aim High!!



### TRICARE Enumeration Targets.....

- By September 2005, 10 %
- By September 2006, 50%
- By January 2007, 75%
- By February 2007, 85%
- By March 2007, 95%
- By April 2007, 100%

*TRICARE providers should  
apply ASAP, help put your  
Service in 1st Place.*

The Service Denominators are not yet finalized.

#### Why is the NPI important to me as a provider?

MHS providers are required to obtain and submit their NPIs to their Credentialing office prior to May 23, 2007 to continue work in their facilities. The NPI will replace all legacy identifiers and will be the standard provider identifier for providers across the United States. NPIs will be used to identify providers in HIPAA standard electronic transactions.

#### When a health care provider with an NPI moves to a new location, must the provider notify the enumerator of its new address?

Providers must notify the enumerator of changes in any information that it furnished on its NPI application, and must do so within 30 days of the change.

#### Why should I apply now, if the NPI is not required until 2007?

By obtaining your NPI as soon as possible, you will be aiding in TMA's implementation efforts and helping to ensure that the MHS is in compliance. NPIs are needed as soon as possible so that TMA can ensure provider and IT system readiness by the compliance date.

#### Did you know that organizational providers need to NPI Type 2?

Organizational Providers (NPI Type 2) such as Military Treatment Facilities and pharmacies also need an NPI. MTFs with legislative authority to bill including Defense Health Program (DHP) funded facilities and MTF pharmacy dispensing locations that currently have a National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) Provider Identification number will need to have an NPI Type 2. In addition, MTFs that make referrals or as future business processes are developed, it may be necessary to reevaluate the need to enumerate additional facilities or subparts of a facility. For more information, please refer to the Enumeration Policy for Military Health System Organizational (Type 2) Health Care Providers at <http://www.ha.osd.mil/policies/>.

#### Helpful Links

- CMS <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/npi/>
- NPPES <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES>
- TRICARE [www.tricare.osd.mil/hipaa](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/hipaa)
- WEDI <http://www.wedi.org/npioi/>

**Providers that are attending the TRICARE Conference, Thank you for participating in our online survey.**

Please send any comments or questions to [hipaamail@tma.osd.mil](mailto:hipaamail@tma.osd.mil)