

What is NPI?

The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a unique, government-issued, standard identification number for individual health care providers and provider organizations like clinics, hospitals, schools and group practices.

What is the purpose of NPI?

The NPI will be the single provider identifier, replacing the different provider identifiers you currently use for each health plan with which you do business and it is intended to improve the efficiency of the health care system. The advantages of the NPI are:

- The NPI will be accepted by all healthcare plans (including dental plans) as a valid provider identifier on electronic dental claims and other standard electronic transactions.
- You will not have to maintain multiple, arbitrary identifiers.

Please note that the NPI will not replace your Social Security Number (SSN), Individual Tax ID Number (TIN) or Employer Tax ID Number (EIN), nor will it replace DEA numbers or state-issued license or certification numbers.

What will the NPI look like?

The NPI will be a ten digit numeric field that will include one check digit in the tenth position to ensure accuracy. The NPI will not contain any embedded intelligence. In other words, it will not provide a provider's state, region, specialty or any other information directly from their NPI.

How do I obtain an NPI?

Applying for your NPI is **FREE and easy**. You can apply for your NPI in one of three ways:

- **Online:** Through an easy web-based application process at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>
- **Mail:** A completed paper application. You can obtain a paper application and the mailing address on <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>. Or you can call 1.800.465.3203.
- An organization may also submit an application in an electronic file with the provider's permission. This means that a professional association or perhaps a health care provider who is your employer could submit an electronic file containing your information and the information of other health care providers.

How and when should I report my NPI to CompBenefits?

Once you have obtained your individual NPI, please fax your NPI number to Gresten Weeks in Professional Services at fax number (678) 405.3626 or call Gresten at 1.800.633.1262, ext. 88594. You should report your NPI as soon as you receive it. Please note that you must begin using your NPI number on all HIPAA standard electronic transactions starting **May 23, 2007**.

I have my NPI number, but I am unsure where to indicate it on the dental claim form?

Please note that an [updated ADA dental claim form](#) has been developed, which include fields specifically for the NPI numbers of the billing dentist or dental entity and the treating dentist. We encourage you to begin using the new form as soon as possible. The new form is available at the ADA web site and also at www.CompBenefits.com. Please be sure to include your Social Security Number (SSN) and/or Tax ID Number (TIN) on the claim form as this will prevent any delays in processing.

Still don't think you need one?

Consider the advantages of having one single identifier. One number means no more maintaining and matching different identification numbers to specific payors for transactions. Your NPI travels with you, so if you move or change specialties, there is no need to apply for another NPI. Including NPIs contributes to a more efficient coordination of benefits – even with paper transactions. And, there is greater freedom to switch to electronic transactions down the road with much more ease.

But, don't delay ~ on May 23, 2007, NPIs will be required by law on all HIPAA standard electronic transactions.

Where can I get more information?

Visit the web site: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> or call (800) 465-3202 or TYY (800) 692-2326.