

## **Enhancements/Updates to NPPES -- August 10, 2008**

On August 10, 2008, the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) will undergo system maintenance. Neither NPPES nor the NPI Registry will be available on August 10, 2008. CMS will be implementing some enhancements/updates to the system. Some of these enhancements/updates may impact health care provider's NPPES records.

Beginning on August 11, the following changes will be implemented:

### **NPPES**

- The "Application Help" page text will be updated to further clarify the following:
  - Sole proprietors
  - Organization subparts
  - "Other Provider Identification Numbers" choices related to the Medicare identifiers
- Restrict telephone number fields to only allow all numeric entries. This also affects providers who currently have NPIs with incorrect telephone number formats located in their NPPES records. These providers will be required to make the appropriate changes to the telephone numbers in their NPPES records the next time they submit any updates/changes to their records. However, these providers are encouraged to correct their telephone number formats without delay.

### **NPI Registry**

- Allow the user to search by an organization's 'doing business as' (DBA) name
- NPI Registry will display deactivated NPIs (searches on NPI that have been deactivated will result in a message that the NPI is deactivated.)

### **Electronic File Interchange (EFI)**

- Revised EFI User Manual (e.g., all-numeric telephone numbers)
- Revised EFI Technical Companion Guide (e.g., all-numeric telephone numbers)
- The upcoming changes will not impact the EFI XML Schema.

### **Additional Information**

Health care providers needing assistance with applying for an NPI or updating their data in NPPES may contact the NPI Enumerator at 1-800-465-3203 or email the request for assistance to the NPI Enumerator at [CustomerService@NPIEnumerator.com](mailto:CustomerService@NPIEnumerator.com).

CMS advises health care providers to read the information available at [www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/) on the CMS NPI website. Included on this site are NPI Frequently Asked Questions and Answers that can assist with NPI issues. In addition, the NPI Application/Update form is also a good source of information. Health care providers should refer to the instructions (they are part of the form) for clarification on information to be

submitted in order to obtain NPIs or update their records. They can also refer to the “Application Help” tab located at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> on the NPPES website for additional assistance when online.