

## What is a National Provider Identifier or NPI?

The Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) mandated the adoption of standard unique identifiers for all health care providers. The purposes of these provisions are to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the electronic transmission of health information. The NPI numbers are ten digits in length and have no embedded intelligence. They were created to replace all unique numbers that have been assigned by payers, such as OMAP's six-digit provider number.

## Where do I get an NPI?

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) established the **National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES)** to assign these unique identifiers. You may apply online by logging onto the CMS Web site or print out the application you find there and mail it in. Please follow the directions on their Web site to complete the application: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>.

## When do I need to have my NPI?

On May 23, 2005, health care providers began submitting applications to CMS to receive an NPI; however, the NPIs will not be required until May 23, 2007. If you are a small health care provider, you might be subject to a later deadline of May 23, 2008. Please refer to the rules within the Federal Register to determine your specific status: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/pdf/04-1149.pdf>

You will need to check with each of the payers you bill, for their specific implementation dates. Payers are phasing in the NPI at different times. OMAP will not require NPIs until the May 23, 2007, deadline.

## Taxonomy codes?

When you apply for an NPI, CMS will require you to choose a taxonomy code. The taxonomy codes divide health care providers into groupings by type, classification, and specialization, and then assign a code to each group. The taxonomy codes consist of two categories: individuals (*e.g.*, physicians) and non-individuals (*e.g.*, ambulatory health care facilities).

All codes are alphanumeric and ten characters in length. These codes are not "assigned" to health care providers; rather, physicians and other providers select the taxonomy code(s) that most closely represents their education, license, or certification. In cases when more than one

taxonomy code applies, a payer may prefer that the health care provider use one rather than another when submitting claims for certain services.

OMAP will create a crosswalk between each provider type currently in our system and a taxonomy code, or codes, that will ensure accurate and appropriate claims processing for payment. Once this is done, OMAP will publish contact information to assist you, if you wish, in determining which taxonomy code(s) to use.

### Does OMAP want my NPI?

Yes, OMAP is now collecting NPIs. Once you have received an NPI, contact the DHS EDI Registration Unit at (503) 947-5347. Please include your OMAP provider number, NPI and the taxonomy code(s) you selected.

### Can I send my NPI in my 837 claims?

OMAP will accept the NPI in the 837 claims transactions; however, you also need to include your OMAP six-digit number until the implementation date of May 23, 2007. Please refer to the Companion Guides available on our Web site for more information:

[http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/admin/hipaa/guides\\_man.shtml](http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/admin/hipaa/guides_man.shtml).

### What if I submit on paper?

CMS is encouraging paper billers to have an NPI, but they are not requiring it.

OMAP will accept your NPI on paper claims, but you must continue to supply the OMAP six-digit number in the appropriate location on the claim forms.