



News Flash - Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) Measures and Specifications

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to announce that the 2007 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) Quality Measures and Specifications are now available. To access both the measures and measure specifications documents, visit the PQRI web page at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI> on the CMS website. Once there, go to the Measures/Codes section of the page and scroll down to the Downloads section. **Please note that many of the quality codes are new and will be rejected by Medicare claims processing systems prior to the July 1, 2007 HCPCS update.**

MLN Matters Number: MM5584

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5584

Related CR Release Date: September 14, 2007

Effective Date: May 29, 2007

Related CR Transmittal #: R222PI

Implementation Date: June 29, 2007

Discontinuance of the Unique Physician Identification Number (UPIN) Registry

Note: This article was revised on April 28, 2008, to add a reference to MLN Matters MM5890 (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/mm5890.pdf>). MM5890 stated that effective with claims received on or after May 23, 2008, Medicare will not pay for referred or ordered services or items, unless the fields for the name and NPI of the ordering, referring and attending, operating, other, or service facility providers are completed on the claims.

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs), Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs), and/or Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs)) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

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Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 5584, which announces that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will discontinue assigning Unique Physician Identification Numbers (UPINs) on June 29, 2007.



CAUTION – What You Need to Know

The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a requirement of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), and the NPI will replace the use of UPINs and other existing legacy identifiers. (However, CMS recently announced a contingency plan that allows for use of legacy numbers for some period of time beyond May 23, 2007. Under the Medicare FFS contingency plan, UPINs and surrogate UPINs may still be used to identify ordering and referring providers and suppliers until further notice.) Information on that contingency plan is at

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/downloads/NPI_Contingency.pdf on the CMS website.)



GO – What You Need to Do

If you do not have an NPI, you should obtain one as soon as possible. Applying for an NPI is fast, easy and free by going to the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) website at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/> on the CMS website. See the Background and Additional Information Sections of this article for further details.

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) was required by law to establish an identifier that could be used in Medicare claims to uniquely identify providers/suppliers who order services for Medicare patients or who refer Medicare patients to physicians and certain other suppliers. The UPIN was established to meet this requirement. CMS assigns UPINs to those physicians and eligible suppliers who are permitted by Medicare to order or refer in the Medicare program. Medicare claims for services that were ordered or for services that resulted from referrals must include UPINs to identify the providers/suppliers who ordered the services or made the referral.

On January 23, 2004, the Secretary of Health and Human Services published a Final Rule in which the Secretary adopted a standard unique health identifier to

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identify health care providers in transactions for which the Secretary has adopted standards (known as HIPAA standard transactions). This identifier is the National Provider Identifier (NPI). The NPI will replace all legacy provider identifiers that are used in HIPAA standard transactions, including the UPIN, to identify health care providers. All HIPAA covered entities (health plans, health care clearinghouses, and those health care providers who transmit any data electronically in connection with a HIPAA standard transaction) are required by that regulation to begin using NPIs in these transactions no later than May 23, 2007 (small health plans have until May 23, 2008). Medicare is also requiring the use of NPIs in paper claims no later than May 23, 2007, but see the note in the following box regarding the May 23, 2007 implementation by Medicare.

Important Note: Effective May 23, 2007, Medicare FFS is establishing a contingency plan for implementing the National Provider Identifier (NPI). In this plan, as soon as Medicare considers the number of claims submitted with an NPI for primary providers (Billing, pay-to and rendering providers) is sufficient, Medicare (after advance notification to providers) will begin rejecting claims without an NPI for primary providers. For more information on this contingency plan, please visit the NPI dedicated website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProviderStand/> on the CMS website. This contingency plan does not affect CMS plans to discontinue assigning UPINs on June 29, 2007, or to disable the UPIN "look-up" functionality as of May 23, 2008.

The CMS discontinued assigning UPINs on June 29, 2007, but CMS will maintain its UPIN public "look-up" functionality and Registry website (<http://www.upinregistry.com>) through May 23, 2008. In addition, CMS published the NPPES Data Dissemination Notice (CMS-6060-N) in the Federal Register on May 30, 2007. This Notice describes the policy by which information, to include NPIs, may be disseminated by CMS from the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES).

Additional Information

For additional information regarding NPI requirements and use, please see MLN Matters articles, MM4023 (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4023.pdf>) titled, "Requirements for Use and Editing of National Provider Identifier (NPI) Numbers Received in Electronic Data Interchange Transactions, via Direct Data Entry Screens or Paper Claim Forms", and MM4293 (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4293.pdf>) titled, "Revised CMS-1500 Claim Form", which describes the revision of claim form CMS-1500 (12-90) to accommodate the reporting of the National Provider Identifier (NPI) and renamed CMS-1500 (08-05).

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The official instruction, CR5584, issued to your carrier, intermediary, RHHI, A/B MAC and DME MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R222PI.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your Medicare carrier, intermediary, RHHI, A/B MAC, or DME MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found on the CMS web site at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

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