



**News Flash - Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP)** software allows professional providers and suppliers to view and print the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant 835. This software, which is available for free can be used to access and print RA information, including special reports, from the HIPAA 835. Please go to your Carrier or DME MAC's website to download the MREP software. To find your carrier or DME MAC's web address, see <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM5858

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5858

Related CR Release Date: February 1, 2008

Effective Date: Claims received on or after May 23, 2008

Related CR Transmittal #: R1432CP

Implementation Date: April 7, 2008

## Medicare Fee for Service Legacy Provider IDs Prohibited on Form CMS-1500 Claims after NPI Required Date

### Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting CMS-1500 and CMS-1450 (UB-04) claims to Medicare carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs), Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs), and/or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries

### Provider Action Needed



#### **STOP – Impact to You**

Effective May 23, 2008, if you report a Provider Legacy Identifier on Medicare CMS-1500 or CMS-1450 (UB-04) claims, your contractors will return them as unprocessable.

#### Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.



### CAUTION – What You Need to Know

CR 5858, from which this article is taken, announces that Provider Legacy Identifiers are not to be reported on Medicare CMS-1500 or Form CMS-1450 claims received on or after May 23, 2008 (the date at which the NPI is required to be reported on claims). After that date, claims containing Legacy Identifiers will be returned as unprocessable.



### GO – What You Need to Do

Make sure that your billing staffs are aware that effective May 23, 2008, only NPIs are to be reported on Medicare CMS-1500 and CMS-1450 claims.

## Background

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The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 required issuance of a unique national provider identifier (NPI) to each physician, supplier, and other health care provider who conducts HIPAA standard electronic transactions. In accordance with this act, CMS began issuing NPIs on May 23, 2005.

Further, on April 2, 2007, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provided covered entities guidance regarding contingency planning for NPI implementation. In this guidance, as long as a health plan was compliant, meaning they could accept and send NPIs on electronic transactions, they could establish contingency plans to facilitate the compliance of their trading partners.

As a compliant health plan, on April 20, 2007 Medicare fee for service (FFS) established a contingency plan that followed this guidance. Since then, CMS has been allowing transactions adopted under HIPAA to be submitted with a variety of identifiers, including:

- NPI only;
- Medicare legacy only (PINs, UPINs, or National Supplier Clearinghouse number); and
- NPI and legacy combination.

CR 5858, from which this article is taken, announces that, beginning on May 23, 2008, CMS requires the NPI to be submitted on the Form CMS-1500 and CMS-1450 paper claims; and legacy numbers will NOT be permitted on claims received on or after that date. Effective that date, Form CMS-1500 and CMS-1450 claims containing legacy identifiers will be returned as unprocessable, without appeal rights.

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When returning these claims, your contractors will use an appropriate message and Remittance Advice Remark code, such as:

**N257** *Missing/incomplete/invalid billing provider primary identifier.*

Note that contractors will not return claims in certain situations where an NPI is not required (e.g., foreign claims, deceased provider claims, and other situations as allowed by CMS in the future). Such claims will be processed with established procedures for such claims.

## Additional Information

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You can find more information about the prohibition of Medicare fee for service legacy provider IDs on Form CMS-1500 and CMS-1450 claims after the NPI required date by going to CR 5858, located at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1432CP.pdf> on the CMS website. You will find updated *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (100-04), Chapter 26 (Completing and Processing Form CMS-1500 Data Set), Section 10.4 (Items 14-33 - Provider of Service or Supplier Information) as an attachment to that CR.

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

**News Flash - It's Not Too Late to Give and Get the Flu Shot!** In the U.S., the peak of flu season typically occurs anywhere from late December through March; however, flu season can last as late as May. Each office visit presents an opportunity for you to talk with your patients about the importance of getting an annual flu shot and a one time pneumococcal vaccination. Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends by getting and giving the flu shot. **Don't Get the Flu. Don't Give the Flu. Get Vaccinated!** Remember - Influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations and their administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are NOT Part D covered drugs. You and your staff can learn more about Medicare's coverage of adult immunizations and related provider education resources, by reviewing Special Edition MLN Matters article SE0748 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0748.pdf> on the CMS website.

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