

Important Message Regarding CMS Educational Products

As of April 2, 2007, covered entities (including health plans, covered health care providers and clearinghouses) have the ability to adopt contingency plans for NPI implementation. For example, Medicare's Fee-For-Service contingency plan allows for analysis of the claims volume submitted with NPIs and may begin rejecting claims that do not include an NPI for billing, pay-to and rendering providers as early as July 1, 2007. For more details on the overall contingency guidance for the industry, as well as Medicare's Fee-For-Service contingency plan, visit the NPI Contingency Planning page on the NPI website at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/08_NPI%20Contingency%20Planning.asp on the web.

- **[For Health Care Providers Who are Sole Proprietors](#)** - July 2007: A sole proprietor/sole proprietorship is an individual and, as such, is eligible for a single NPI. Read more about Sole Proprietors and the NPI.
- **[For Health Care Providers Who are Organizations](#)** – July 2007: Organization health care providers apply for NPIs as Organizations (Entity Type 2). Read more about Organization Providers and the NPI.
- **[The National Provider Identifier General Information](#)** – January 2006: The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 requires the adoption of a standard unique identifier for health care providers. The NPI Final Rule issued January 23, 2004 adopted the NPI as this standard. Read more about NPI in this fact sheet.
- **[For Healthcare Providers Who are Individuals](#)** – January 2006: Are you drowning in a sea of provider numbers? Do you have to keep track of many different identifiers, provider numbers, and provider identification numbers? Do you forget which number to use with which payer? If so, help is on the way! Read more about Healthcare Providers Who are Individuals in this fact sheet.
- **[Electronic File Interchange](#)** – March 2006: The EFI process allows CMS-approved organizations to submit NPI application information on behalf of health care providers who are associated with them and who have agreed to have these organizations submit this information for them. Read more about NPI EFI in this fact sheet.
- **[Guidance on Subpart Determination for Medicare Organization Providers Who are Covered Entities under HIPPA](#)** – March 2006: Covered organization health care providers are responsible for determining if they have subparts that need NPIs. If there are subparts that need NPIs, the covered health care providers must ensure that the subparts obtain their own NPIs, or must obtain them for the subparts. Read more about Subparts in this fact sheet.

