



Dr Comfort Updates – February 8, 2008

Helping to Solve the NPI Mystery

March 1st is a Critical Date. As of March 1, 2008, Claims with both an NPI and a Medicare legacy number will be rejected if the pair of numbers are not found on the Medicare NPI Crosswalk. Claims without an NPI in the primary provider field will be rejected. Your NPI (National Provider Identifier) is a HIPPA standard. This is a crucial 10-digit number that all health care providers, health plans and health care clearinghouses must use in the administrative and financial transactions adopted under HIPPA.

We have been told that claims that only use a Medicare legacy number in the primary provider field will be rejected.

The NPI Application Form (CMS-10114) has been revised and is now available for download on the CMS website. That website is

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms/downloads/CMS10114.pdf>

If you are applying for a second NPI #, or you have questions pertaining to your current NPI #, please use the following website:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/>

One reason a claim will be rejected is if the NPI and UPIN used in combination on the claim do not identify the same entity. For example, the NPI in the “Billing Provider” field might be the corporations’ NPI, but the UPIN used might be the physician or practitioner’s UPIN. This pairing may be the result of variations of past Medicare enrollment and UPIN assignment procedures. Another example - Medicare carriers may have combined the enrollment of a physician/practitioner and his/her corporation into a single enrollment; or a sole proprietorship may have been previously enrolled as a corporation because the sole proprietorship was issued an EIN by the IRS.

If your claims are **REJECTED** here are some suggestions:

Check the Medicare Reject Report message – it will describe the missing information/reasons for rejection.

Check to find out if the person doing your billing has been contacted by a Medicare carrier concerning problems with the matching of NPI/UPIN combinations to the Medicare NPI Crosswalk

Check to ensure that the information in the NPPES was properly obtained. If you are a sole proprietorship, you should have an individual UPIN and you should have a NPI as an individual (Entity type 1) NOT as an organization (Entity type 2)

To view or edit your NPPES record, go to: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>

YOU DESERVE OUR COMFORT!