



Got NPI?

As a reminder, the **NPI-ONLY date is set for May 23, 2008, for processing ALL Medicaid and Medicare prescriptions and other HIPPA transactions.** While most pharmacies are ready and are submitting NPIs (National Provider Identifier) already, it has been reported that some are not. If you need NPI numbers for prescribers across the nation, there is an easy to use link on www.mtpharmacist.org at the bottom of the front page labeled **NPI Registry** complete with prescriber's work phone, fax, and address; license number; UPIN number; etc.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) clarifies that not all prescribers are covered entities under the HPI rule and, therefore, not all prescribers are required to have an NPI. The guidance further clarifies that if the prescriber does not have an NPI or the pharmacy cannot obtain a prescriber's NPI, a non-NPI prescriber ID may be substituted on NCPDP pharmacy claims transactions if allowed by the payer.

CMS emphasizes that plans should make all reasonable efforts to obtain NPIs in the prescriber ID field. Nevertheless, Part D plans cannot justify putting enrollees at risk of service interruption by establishing point-of-sales edits that reject pharmacy claims that do not include the NPI in the prescriber ID field. Part D plans must avail themselves of the claims processing flexibility allowed by ensuring that their systems continue to accept non-NPI prescriber IDs (e.g., DEA number, State License number) on NCPDP pharmacy claims transactions.

- **This guidance is expected to be used to cover EXCEPTIONS.**
- **It is not intended to allow routine use of non-NPI identifiers or default identifiers in place of individual prescriber NPIs.**
- **Pharmacies are expected to make all reasonable efforts to obtain and utilize the appropriate individual NPIs for prescribers.**
- **Pharmacies still must provide their own NPI in the Service Provider ID field on all Part D pharmacy claims.**