



National Provider Identifier (NPI) Q & A

► What is it?

CMS has mandated that every provider have an individual National Provider Number (NPI). The NPI is an intelligence-free 10 position numeric identifier. The number does not carry any other information about the provider, such as the state in which they live or their medical specialty.

The purpose of the NPI is to uniquely identify a health care provider in standard transactions, such as health care claims. The NPI may also be used to identify health care providers on prescriptions, internal files to link proprietary provider identification numbers, coordination of benefits between health plans, patient medical record systems, program integrity files and other ways. HIPAA requires that covered entities use NPI in standard transactions by the compliance dates of May 23, 2007.

► Does the NPI replace Tax ID and SSN?

No, the NPI will be used in lieu of provider identifiers such as UPIN and PIN. The NPI does not replace TIN, EIN or SSN.

► When is the NPI effective?

NPI must be submitted on all claims (paper and electronic) beginning on May 23, 2007

► What happens if not submitted on the claim (paper and electronic) after May 23, 2007?

Electronic claims will be rejected back to the provider for correction. Paper claims will be denied, providers will have to resubmit their claims with the NPI.

► Where does the NPI number go on the claim form?

Box 33 A for Group/Pay To
Box 1J – 6J for Individual/Rendering Provider

► **Who assigns NPI?**

Providers should be directed to Fox Systems, Inc., who is contracted with CMS to manage the NPI Project:

Website: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>

Phone: 1-800-465-3203

TTY: 1-800-692-2326