

National Provider Identifier FAQ Page

What is an NPI?

The NPI is a unique 10 digit identification number for health care providers that will be used by all health plans. Health care providers and all health plans and health care clearinghouses will use the NPIs in the administrative and financial transactions specified by HIPAA.

Who gets an NPI?

Any health care provider. Examples include:

- Individuals: physicians, dentists, nurses, chiropractors, others
- Organizations: Hospitals, ambulatory care facilities, laboratories, group practices, others.
- Individuals may only receive one NPI. An organization may apply for an NPI for the main organization and any subparts it chooses to enumerate.

Examples of services that do not qualify as health care services and cannot receive an NPI:

- Taxi Services
- Bus Services
- Habilitation and Respite Services
- School Based Services
- Assisted Living Center

Issuance of an NPI will not eliminate the need to be separately credentialed with Vermont Medicaid. You will still need to continue to enroll new providers with the program.

When do I start using my NPI?

Many health plans, including Medicare, Medicaid, and private health insurance issuers, and all health care clearinghouses must accept and use NPIs in standard transactions by May 23, 2007. After those compliance dates, health care providers may use only their NPIs to identify themselves in standard transactions where the NPI is called for. These transactions include 837 professional, 837 institutional, 837 dental, 276/277 claim status request and response, and 270/271 eligibility request and response.

Vermont Medicaid tentatively plans to start user acceptance testing with the current version of PES software on April 16, 2007. May 7, 2007 is the tentative date that EDS will begin accepting NPI numbers on claims. EDS will continue to accept Vermont Medicaid numbers at that time. **Please understand that these dates are NOT firm, they are target dates only.** If providers wish to perform a production test of their updated

billing software they are encouraged to submit a small number of claims with NPI numbers and the rest with Vermont Medicaid numbers during that first week of testing. We will continue to keep you posted of our implementation plans.

How do I apply for an NPI?

You may apply for your NPI in one of three ways:

- You may apply through an easy web-based application process, beginning May 23, 2005. The web address is <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>.
- You may prepare a paper application and send it to the entity (the Enumerator) that will be assigning the NPI on behalf of the Secretary, beginning July 1, 2005. A copy of the application, including the Enumerator's mailing address is available on <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>. You may also call the Enumerator for a copy. The phone number is 1-800-465-3203 or TTY 1-800-692-2326.
- With your permission, an organization may submit your application in an electronic file. This could mean that a professional association or perhaps a health care provider who is your employer could submit an electronic file containing your information and the information of other health care providers. This process will be available in the fall 2005.

When can I request an NPI?

Beginning May 23 2005 via the web. Beginning July 1, 2005 via paper application. Fall of 2005 via electronic file.

Will my decision on how to enumerate my organization or Facility effect the way I am reimbursed?

No, it will not change the way your claims are reimbursed, however it could effect the way you are notified of payment or denial. Providers who currently have several Vermont Medicaid provider numbers, and currently receive a remittance advice for each one, and choose not to enumerate their subparts will receive only one remittance advice with all claims submitted under the one NPI listed.

What is a sub-part?

Subparts function as organization providers that render health care but which are not legal entities – they are part of a legal entity. Examples – hospital unit, member of a chain.