



Related MLN Matters Article #: SE0802

Date Posted: February 8, 2008

Related CR #: N/A

### *Upcoming Critical Dates for Medicare's Fee-for-Service (FFS) Implementation of the National Provider Identifier (NPI)*

#### Key Words

SE0802, Critical, FFS, NPI

#### Provider Types Affected

SE0802 is primarily for physicians and providers who submit Medicare claims using the Medicare FFS 837P and the CMS-1500 form.

#### Key Points

- The Special Edition article SE0802 is intended to resolve some confusion that providers are experiencing regarding the March 1, 2008, implementation of the NPI on professional claims, and the May 23, 2008, requirement for using **ONLY the NPI** on all Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act electronic transactions and their paper versions.
- The charts in SE0802 (page 2) illustrate expected claim results for different identifiers, or combinations of identifiers, submitted in the primary provider fields on the Medicare FFS 837P and CMS-1500. Note that when the chart indicates that claims will be paid, this would only be if no other errors (non-NPI) exist.
- If providers have been submitting claims with both an NPI and a Medicare legacy number and those claims have been paid, the providers need to test their ability to get paid using only their NPI (i.e., no Medicare legacy number) by submitting one or two claims today for each NPI they have been assigned.
- If the Medicare NPI Crosswalk cannot match the provider's NPI to the provider's Medicare legacy number, the claim with an NPI-only will reject. Providers can and should do this test now!
- If the claim is processed and the provider is paid, they should continue to increase the volume of claims sent with only their NPI.

- If the claims reject, providers should validate that the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) has the correct Medicare legacy number. If the provider's NPPES information is correct, providers should contact their Medicare Carrier or A/B MAC enrollment staff for advice right away.
- As of January 1, 2008, FFS Medicare required an NPI in the primary provider fields on the 837I and UB-04 claim types. Providers billing with these claim forms must continue to include an NPI in the primary provider field until May 23, 2008, at which time an NPI-only is required in all fields.

## Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0802.pdf> on the CMS website.

For more information on correcting NPPES errors and how to use the NPI on Medicare claims, providers may visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0725.pdf> on the CMS website.

If providers do not have an NPI, they need to obtain one as soon as possible. Providers can apply for an NPI online at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> or can call the NPI enumerator to request a paper application at 1-800-465-3203.

A table of Medicare's key dates relative to the NPI is available at the CMS NPI page at [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvidentStand/02\\_WhatsNew.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvidentStand/02_WhatsNew.asp) on the CMS website.

More information and education on the NPI can be found through the CMS NPI page <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvidentStand> on the CMS website.