



If you treat a Medicare Advantage enrolled beneficiary and you have questions about their Medicare Advantage Plan, you may wish to contact that plan. A plan directory and MA claims processing contact directory are available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MCRAdvPartDENrolData/> on the CMS website. CMS updates this site on a monthly basis.

MLN Matters Number: MM5378

Related Change Request (CR) #:5378

Related CR Release Date: November 13, 2006

Effective Date: October 1, 2006

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Implementation Date: November 20, 2006

## Claims Submitted With Only a National Provider Identifier (NPI) During the Stage 2 NPI Transition Period

This article was revised on May 4, 2007, to add this statement that Medicare FFS has announced a contingency plan regarding the May 23, 2007 implementation of the NPI. For some period after May 23, 2007, Medicare FFS will allow continued use of legacy numbers on transactions; accept transactions with only NPIs; and accept transactions with both legacy numbers and NPIs. For details of this contingency plan, see the *MLN Matters* article, MM5595, at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5595.pdf> on the CMS website.

### Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers who conduct HIPAA standard transactions, such as claims and eligibility inquiries, with Medicare

### Provider Action Needed



#### STOP – Impact to You

Beginning October 1, 2006 and until further notice, claims that you submit containing only an NPI will be returned you as unprocessable if a properly matching legacy number cannot be found.



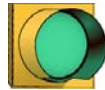
#### CAUTION – What You Need to Know

From the beginning of Medicare's Stage 2 NPI transition period on October 1, 2006 and until further notice, you should submit both NPIs and legacy provider

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This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

numbers on your Medicare claims to ensure that they are properly processed.. During this period, claims submitted with only a NPI that Medicare systems are unable to properly match with a legacy number (e.g., PIN, OSCAR number), may be rejected, and you will be required to resubmit the claim with the appropriate legacy number.



### GO – What You Need to Do

You should make sure that when submitting Medicare claims with dates of service on or after October 1, 2006, your billing staff submit both your NPI and legacy provider numbers until further notice from CMS.

## Background

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As previously announced, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) plans to begin testing new software it has been developed to use the NPI in the existing Medicare fee-for-service claims processing systems. (Remember that you will be required to submit claims and other HIPAA transactions with only an NPI beginning on May 23, 2007).

During the Stage 2 NPI transition period of October 1, 2006, through May 22, 2007, Medicare will accept claims having only NPIs (as well as those having only legacy provider numbers); however in CR 5378, from which this article is taken, CMS recommends that during this period you submit claims using:

- The provider's legacy number, such as a Provider Identification Number (PIN), NSC number, OSCAR number or UPIN; or
- Both the provider's NPI and legacy number.

**Note:** Until January 2, 2007, NPIs are not to be submitted on paper claims via CMS 1500 forms. Institutional providers are advised that the NPI will not be accepted on paper claims by FIs or A/B MACs until implementation of the UB-04 on May 23, 2007.

Until testing of Medicare's new software is complete, if you submit Medicare claims with only your NPI:

- 1) They may be processed and paid, or
- 2) If the Medicare systems are unable to properly match the incoming NPI with a legacy number (e.g., PIN, OSCAR number), they may be rejected, and you will be required to resubmit the claim with the appropriate legacy number.

## Additional Information

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The official instruction issued to your Medicare contractor on this issue, CR 5378, is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R2490TN.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier, DMERC, DME MAC, A/B MAC, or FI at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

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