



July 14, 2006

Name
Address
City/State/Zip
Attn: Managed Care Contracting

Dear Provider:

As you are aware, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) mandated that the Secretary of Health and Human Services adopt a standard unique health identifier for health care providers. That means *all* covered health care providers, both individuals and organizations must obtain a National Provider Identifier (NPI) for use on all HIPAA-related electronic transactions. Organizations may additionally identify subparts. The Preamble of the Final Rule offers guidance to assist organizations in identifying subparts that may need to apply for separate NPIs. Factors to consider in whether a health care provider should designate a component of its organization as a subpart include:

- If the subpart is separately licensed by the State
- If the subpart operates separately from the whole, for example if it bills separately
- If the subpart is part of a chain and operates separately from the headquarters
- If the subpart is required to be identified by Medicare or other Federal Program for billing purposes

The compliance date for covered entities to obtain and use an NPI in HIPAA covered transactions is May 23, 2007. Upon the implementation, the NPI will be the sole provider identifier and will replace the multiple provider identification numbers you currently use. Moreover, the use of Medicare UPINs, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Provider Numbers, CHAMPUS Number, Medicaid IDs, etc. will not be permitted as of May 23, 2007.

Effective fall 2006, BCBS will be capable of accepting NPI numbers in conjunction with a provider's existing BCBS ID on standard electronic claim transactions. In an effort to facilitate the transition of our organization's implementation and required use of NPI on all standard electronic transactions, we are seeking your input via the enclosed short survey.

We appreciate your time to complete this survey and return it to us **via mail or fax as follows:**

**Provider Services
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas
P.O. Box 650267
Dallas, TX 75265-0267
Fax #: 866-589-8254**

To learn more about NPI and its implications the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has an NPI Resource online at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/npi/01_overview.asp.

You can also check for updates on the BCBS Web site at <http://www.bcbstx.com> or in our *Blue Review* provider newsletter. Thank you in advance for your assistance with our NPI implementation efforts.

Sincerely,

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas



BlueCross BlueShield
of Texas

NPI Implementation Enumeration Survey

Name of Individual Completing Survey: _____

Submitter's Telephone Number: _____

Organization Name: _____ BCBS#: _____

Mailing Address:

Please take a moment to help us understand your strategy as well as approach to your organization's NPI (National Provider Identifier) enumeration plans as well as your plans regarding subpart designation. When complete please fax the document to **866-589-8254** or if you'd like to discuss your enumeration plans with us, please call your BCBS representative directly to schedule a meeting. Thank you in advance for your help in making our NPI implementation a success.

NPI: Basic Understanding

How long ago did you start planning for NPI?

- May 23, 2005
- Q1 2006
- Just Started Gap Analysis
- Not an immediate priority because there will be a delay

Have your major vendors begun talking about NPI and making the necessary changes to support NPI applications?

- All
- Clearinghouses only
- Practice Management Vendor
- Billing Companies

How many other payers have contacted you about collaborating on NPI solutions and implementation?

- No contact as of yet
- 1
- 2
- 3
- Mostly national payers

How would you rate your concern regarding the impact to payment and revenues as it relates to implementation of NPI?

- High
- Uneasy
- Some concern but solution in place to defray potential negative impact
- Comfortable, no issues

New Claims Forms, Subpart Designation and NPI Implementation Timeline

What is your NPI implementation timeline?

- In line with Medicare (ability to send dual identifiers by 10/2/06)
- Still figuring out how to designate subparts
- Able to submit dual identifiers by 12/31/06
- Ready to test now

Will your organization be determining more subparts than current Blue Cross and Blue Shield Numbers (legacy provider numbers)? For example, if you have three BCBS Billing IDs, do you anticipate determining more than three subparts?

- No, looking to create less than current BCBS IDs
- Yes, looking to enumerate granularly (4+)
- No, looking to enumerate at current ID level (3)

Are you assisting your employed providers with enumeration?

- Designated employees responsible for obtaining NPI (included enumeration as a credentialing standard)
- Used an EFIO to bulk enumerate all employed eligible providers
- In the process of determining best solution

If you are looking to enumerate more than current IDs, would you please list the areas you wish to enumerate (please use additional sheets if necessary):

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Additional Comments

If you have enumerated your organization, please complete the following table to assist BCBSTX in its NPI implementation and **include a copy of your confirmation letter from NPPES.**

<u>Current BCBS Billing ID/BCBS ID #</u>	<u>Service Name / Service Description</u>	<u>NPI</u>

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR SURVEY. YOUR COOPERATION IS CRITICAL TO OUR ONGOING SUCCESS!