

Denti-Cal Bulletin



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HIPAA UPDATE

What's New?

- Those who have not signed and submitted a Trading Partner Agreement (TPA) are now unable to submit through Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) until a TPA is received by the Medi-Cal Dental Program.
- Current Dental Terminology Version 4 (CDT-4) training is scheduled to begin in September. Denti-Cal Bulletin Volume 21, Number 25 (enclosed in this envelope) provides details regarding training seminars in your area!
- Providers can now apply for a National Provider Identifier (NPI). See information below.

Certified Trading Partners

The Medi-Cal Dental Program is accepting, from certified trading partners, the X12 4010A1 format for dental claims (ASC X12N 837 Dental) and Health Care Claim Status Inquiry (ASC X12N 276) transactions. Providers who submit electronically, either directly or via a clearinghouse, claims and Treatment Authorization Requests (TARs) were required to sign and submit a TPA by June 1, 2005. *Those who have not done so will be unable to submit through EDI until the Medi-Cal Dental Program receives a TPA.*

A copy of the Medi-Cal Dental Program EDI Companion Guide, as well as the TPA, can be obtained by telephoning Provider Services toll-free at (800) 423-0507, or (916) 853-7373 and asking for EDI Support. Requests may also be sent by e-mail to denticaledi@delta.org.

National Provider Identifier

This article is the second in a series about the National Provider Identifier (NPI), a Standard Unique Health Identifier for Health Care Providers, detailing how it will affect Medi-Cal Dental Program (Denti-Cal) providers.

How does a provider get an NPI?

The three application options are: 1) Paper Application 2) Web Application and 3) Electronic File Interchange (EFI) Bulk Enumeration.

1. **Paper Application** – Beginning July 1, 2005, providers may prepare a paper application and send it to the NPI Enumerator who will be assigning the NPI. A copy of the application, including the Enumerator's mailing address is available at

<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>. You may call the Enumerator to request a copy at (800) 465-2302 or TTY (800) 692-2326.

2. **Web Application** – Providers may apply through an easy web-based application process beginning May 23, 2005. The Web address is <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>.
3. **EFI (Electronic File Interchange) Bulk Enumeration** – With permission, an organization may submit an application in an electronic file on behalf of the provider. This could mean that a professional association, or perhaps a provider who is an employer, could submit an electronic file containing the information of other providers. This process will be available fall 2005.

When gathering information for an application, be sure that all the information such as Social Security Number and/or Federal Employer Identification Number are correct. Once an NPI is received, safeguard its use. The application form contains a Privacy Act Statement which explains how the information collected on the application may be disseminated.

Important NPI reminders:

- Covered dental providers will be required to obtain an NPI to use on all covered dental transactions.
- Once the NPI is implemented nationally, providers will be able to utilize the NPI for all public and private payers.
- The compliance date for Denti-Cal providers, dental plans, and clearinghouses is May 23, 2007.
- **Providers must continue using their existing provider numbers for all Denti-Cal transactions until notified otherwise.**

Denti-Cal is currently assessing how the NPI will impact its operations and systems. Providers will be notified when the NPI will be accepted by Denti-Cal.

For more information about the NPI and/or the NPI enrollment application process, please visit the Web site for CMS at www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2.