

# Denti-Cal Bulletin



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## HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA)

### National Provider Identifier (NPI) Update

*Only 7 months until the NPI compliance date!  
Do you have your NPI?*

#### What is the NPI?

The NPI is a 10-digit number that will be used to identify you to your health care partners. The NPI is replacing all provider numbers including your Denti-Cal billing and rendering provider numbers currently used today.

There are two entity types that are recognized by the National Provider Identifier Enumerator:

- ◆ Entity Type 1: Health care providers who are individual human beings, including dentists and hygienists.
- ◆ Entity Type 2: Health care providers who are organizations, including dental practices, and/or individual dental practices who are incorporated.

#### Who will need an NPI?

Effective May 23, 2007, Denti-Cal providers must obtain, register, and use an NPI if:

- ◆ The Provider submits claims electronically and verifies eligibility via the Point of Service (POS) Device or the Internet
- ◆ The Provider submits paper claims and verifies eligibility via the Point of Service (POS) Device or the Internet
- ◆ A new provider is enrolling for the first time into the Denti-Cal program

*Note: Rendering providers must obtain an NPI if they work for a billing provider who submits claims electronically.*

#### Subparting

The Federal Register, 45 CFR, Part 162, NPI Final Rule, refers to separate physical locations as “subparts” of an organizational health care provider. Providers, who receive one NPI rather than subpart, may experience delays in the return of payments, Explanation of Benefits (EOBs), Request Turnaround Documents (RTDs), and Notice of Authorizations (NOAs). Therefore, Denti-Cal encourages qualifying providers to subpart.

Please contact the National Provider Identifier Enumerator for more information on subparting.

## **Electronic Claim Submission**

In conjunction with the deadline to accept an NPI, providers who submit claims electronically will need to use the 4010A1 version of the 837 claim transaction by May 23, 2007. Denti-Cal has been assisting clearinghouses and practice management vendors in converting to the new claim format. For more information on conversion to the 4010A1 format, please call your software vendor, clearinghouse or Denti-Cal's Telephone Service Center at (800) 423-0507 and ask for EDI Support.

## **How to obtain an NPI**

Providers may obtain an NPI using the resources listed below:

Phone the National Provider Identifier Enumerator Call Center at:

1-800-465-3203

1-800-692-2326 (TTY)

To request that an application be mailed, please write to:

NPI Enumerator

P.O. Box 6059

Fargo, ND 58108-6059

To complete the on-line application or for information on the NPI final rule, please visit:

<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>

For help or questions, e-mail the National Provider Identifier Enumerator Customer Service at:

[customerservice@npientumerator.com](mailto:customerservice@npientumerator.com)

For additional information about NPI, please visit <http://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>.

## **NPI Registration**

Denti-Cal providers will be required to register their NPI with Denti-Cal. More information will be provided in upcoming bulletins detailing how and when to register your NPI with Denti-Cal.

**Enrolled providers must continue to use their current Denti-Cal provider number until May 23, 2007.**