



THE NPI NEWSLETTER

March 2008

Keeping you up-to-date on National Provider Identifier (NPI) issues at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico (BCBSNM)

In this issue

- NPI-Only Phase Updates
- Do You Still Need Type 2? - A Quick How To
- Tip of the Month



National Provider Identifier

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BlueCross BlueShield of New Mexico Experience. Wellness. Everywhere.™



Tip of the Month



Use Your TIN as a secondary ID on claims!

Prior to submitting claims to BCBSNM, confirm that your Tax Identification Number (TIN) is included in the appropriate location. The NPI does not replace your TIN, which must continue to be indicated on all claims for tax reporting purposes. Additionally, not using your TIN may cause your claim to reject. Avoid claims rejection – include your TIN!

Take Advantage of the Testing Window Before May 23, 2008



Originally, we had published March 31, 2008, as the start date for our *NPI Only* phase. Some of our providers are experiencing technical difficulties preventing them from submitting NPI-only claims. Therefore, we are no longer requiring submission of NPI-only claims on March 31, 2008. We have changed our NPI-only date to **May 23, 2008**, to coincide with the date the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will lift its enforcement-leniency policy, and fines will begin to be imposed for non-compliance. All claims must be submitted using NPI as the single identifier, as claims received with only a BCBS provider number, and claims received with dual identifiers (BCBS provider number and NPI), will be rejected after **May 23, 2008**.

If you have already received your "Congratulations" postcard, we ask you to begin submitting NPI-only electronic claims as soon as possible. By submitting NPI-only claims, together we can identify any issues or problems that could impact your business operations. If you submit paper claims exclusively and have shared your NPI with us, you may continue to submit NPI-only paper claims without waiting for a "Congratulations" postcard. Until you submit claims with only your NPI, you (and we) have no way of knowing what your experience will be like after May 23, 2008. Going "*NPI Only*" now is the best way to test, identify, and rectify any issues before compliance is enforced.

Please be aware that it is important to wait for a "Congratulations" postcard from BCBSNM before submitting NPI-only electronic claims to us. The reason to wait for your postcard is that BCBSNM must first verify that our systems are configured to accept your NPI-only electronic claims submission. If you submit NPI-only electronic transactions prior to receiving this notification from BCBSNM, your NPI-only electronic claims will be rejected. If you submit claims electronically but are unable to submit NPI-only claims you may continue to submit claims with dual identifiers. If you need assistance regarding how to transition to submitting NPI-only claims, contact your Provider Representative. Remember you must be submitting all standard transactions using only your NPI as of May 23, 2008.

Do You Still Need a Type 2 NPI? – A Quick How To



If you still have not obtained the Type 2 (Organizational) NPI for your corporation, you must apply immediately! Even as a corporation of one person, you must submit the Type 1 Individual NPI for yourself and the Type 2 Organization NPI for your corporation. Generally the corporation's Type 2 NPI would represent the Billing Provider and the physician's Type 1 NPI would represent the Rendering, Referring/Ordering, Attending, Operating and/or Other Providers.

Follow the instructions at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> to acquire your Type 2 NPI. Once received, share this information with BCBSNM so we can update the provider file accordingly. For additional information on Type 1 and Type 2 NPIs – what they are and how they may be used – please refer to the NPI FAQs on our Web Site at www.bcbsnm.com.