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Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., Director and State Health Officer

Governor Dave Freudenthal

May 2, 2007

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Dear Healthcare Provider:

It has come to our attention that there has been some anxiety and confusion over the upcoming Nation Provider Identifier (NPI) deadline on May 23, 2007. One particular concern has been who you should share your NPI with. A great source for information comes from the CMS website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/nationalProvIdentStand/>. This site will give you a great overview and links to a frequently asked question page. I have attached for your benefit a paragraph from that CMS page that deal with whom you should share them with.

As outlined in the Federal Regulation, (The health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA)) you should share your NPI with other providers, health plans, clearinghouses, and any entity that may need it for billing purposes. Health care providers should share their NPI's with other providers with whom they do business and with health plans that request their NPI's. All health care providers who conduct standard transactions as adopted under the health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA) are covered health care providers. Providers should also consider letting health plans or institutions for which they work, share their NPI's for them.

CMS strongly encourages providers to share their NPI with other health care providers to whom they refer patients; pharmacies that fill their health plans in which they are enrolled and to whom they submit prescriptions; claims; and organizations where they have staff privileges.

Please feel free to contact us with any future concerns.

Sincerely,

James E. Bush, M.D., F.A.C.P.
State Medicaid Medical Officer
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JB/ct



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