



National Provider Identifier (NPI)



Pharmacy NPI News

May 2007

EqualityCare Implements NPI Contingency Plan

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued guidance on April 2nd that allows covered entities, such as EqualityCare, to implement contingency plans for accepting legacy provider identifiers after the May 23, 2007 NPI compliance deadline.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN NPI:

As of March 26, 2007, many eligible Wyoming providers had **NOT** obtained an NPI. If you are one of those providers, and cannot meet the May 23rd deadline, you must fill out the attached contingency form. You are required to explain your plan to become NPI compliant and provide a deadline as to when that will occur and return it to ACS by May 15, 2007.

To apply for an NPI, you have three options:

1. Apply online using the NPPES web-based application system. The web address is <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>.
2. Request a paper application by calling the NPI enumerator at 1-800-465-3203.
3. Authorize an employer or other trusted organization to obtain an NPI for you through bulk enumeration.

As a reminder, EqualityCare is requiring all of its enrolled pharmacies to obtain an NPI.

IF YOU HAVE AN NPI AND ARE READY TO USE IT:

Pharmacies who have an NPI and registered it with ACS are still required to use their NPI beginning May 23, 2007 in **ALL** electronic transactions and on **ALL** paper forms.

IF YOU HAVE AN NPI, BUT ARE NOT READY TO USE IT:

If you have an NPI registered with ACS, but are unable to use it because your switch vendor is not ready to generate NPI-compliant claims or other issues beyond your control, complete the attached NPI Contingency/Corrective Action Plan. **All sections must be completed and on file with ACS by May 15, 2007.**

Submitting an NPI Contingency/Corrective Action Plan allows you to continue using your NCPDP ID until your switch vendor is ready to generate NPI-compliant transactions, or your other issues are resolved, whichever comes first. When you're ready to generate NPI-compliant transactions, contact the ACS NPI Unit **BEFORE** submitting them. ACS must first configure EqualityCare's systems to allow you to use your NPI instead of your NCPDP ID. **Providers who submit an NPI Contingency/Corrective Action Plan and then begin using their NPI without first informing the ACS NPI Unit will find their electronic transactions and paper forms rejected or denied.** The ACS NPI unit can be reached by calling 1-800-251-1268 and selecting option 6.

IMPORTANT DATES:

May 15 th	NPI Contingency/Corrective Actions Plans must be on file with ACS.
May 23 rd	EqualityCare begins accepting POS pharmacy claims with NPIs.
Sept 1 st	Providers who have not returned a signed Provider Agreement to ACS will be voluntarily terminated until the agreement is received.

Registering Your NPI with ACS

Simply obtaining an NPI is not enough. You must register your NPI with ACS. Using an NPI without registering it first will result in your claims being rejected or denied. If you have an NPI and have not registered it with ACS, submit your NPI confirmation letter or email along with the NPI packet that was mailed in January to:

ACS Provider Relations
Attn: NPI Unit
PO Box 667
Cheyenne, WY 82003-0667

If you do not have a copy of the NPI packet, a separate NPI Registration Form can be printed from the EqualityCare website (<http://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/NPI.html>). **A registration form must be completed for each EqualityCare number even if one NPI replaces several EqualityCare numbers.** Failure to submit an NPI Registration Form for each EqualityCare number will result in your claims being rejected or denied.

Submitting NPI-Compliant Point-of-Sale (POS) Claims

Effective May 23rd, EqualityCare will begin accepting pharmacy POS claims using an NPI. POS claims submitted with an NPI must conform to the following specifications:

- ◆ The NPI will be required in field 2Ø1-B1 (Service Provider ID) along with a Qualifier of "Ø1 - National Provider Identifier" in field 2Ø2-B2 (Service Provider ID Qualifier). Claims submitted with any other pharmacy ID not equal to the NPI will reject with NCPDP Reject Code 50 – "Non-Matched Pharmacy Number. Dispensing Pharmacy ID Not Submitted as NPI."
- ◆ Claims will be accepted if submitted using either a prescriber's NPI or DEA number in field 411-DB (Prescriber ID).

Please refer to the website <http://www.acspbmhipaa.com> for the most up-to-date NPI information as well as the most current Wyoming Medicaid payer sheets. As a reminder, please notify your switch vendor of your particular pharmacy's NPI number to avoid any processing issues on or after May 23rd.

Paper Remittance Advice

Beginning May 30th, the first payment cycle after the blackout period, the format of EqualityCare's remittance advice (RA) will change for providers who are using their NPI to bill claims.

- ◆ The NPI will replace the EqualityCare number.
- ◆ Providers will receive one RA for each NPI. This may result in a significant change for providers who replaced several EqualityCare numbers with one NPI.
- ◆ Claims will be grouped by taxonomy code description (provider type and specialty).

835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice

Beginning May 30th, the first payment cycle after the blackout period, EqualityCare numbers will no longer be passed in the 835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice for providers who are using their NPI to bill claims. If your system uses an 835 transaction to post EqualityCare payments, **verify it is capable of processing an 835 transaction that contains only NPIs.**

From May 17th through May 28th, providers will not have access to the EqualityCare Web Portal to download their 835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice. 835 transactions will only be available for download via ACS EDI Gateway's bulletin board system (BBS). For more information on how to use the BBS to download your 835 transaction, call ACS EDI at 1-800-672-4959.

Other Important Changes

All affected EqualityCare forms will be updated by May 18th to accommodate the NPI. Refer to the NPI Page on the EqualityCare website (<http://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/NPI.html>) or contact Provider Relations Unit at 1-800-251-1268.

Revised Provider Agreement

The NPI packet mailed in January also contained a revised Provider Agreement. This version of the agreement supersedes all previous versions. **If you have not returned a signed Provider Agreement by August 31, 2007, your provider number will be voluntarily terminated until one is received.**

If you did not receive a copy of the revised Provider Agreement, it can be printed from the EqualityCare website (<http://wequalitycare.acs-inc.com/NPI.html>). **All four pages of the agreement must be returned to ACS.** When returning the agreement, be sure to include your EqualityCare provider number in the top right corner of each page to expedite processing.

NPI: Get It. Share It. Use It.

CMS recently issued guidance on the sharing of NPIs. This guidance relates to the disclosure of health care providers' NPIs for the purpose of using NPIs in HIPAA standard transactions. On this page and the next is the full text of the CMS guidance.

"We are aware that some entities within the health care industry, such as health plans and some large provider organizations, would like to disclose health care providers' National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) to other health care industry entities for purposes of using NPIs in Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) standard transactions."

"This issue is not the same as the issue of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) disclosing health care providers' NPIs from the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). That dissemination policy will be described in a Notice that will be published in the Federal Register."

*Health care providers can disclose their NPIs to anyone they choose. **The NPI Final Rule requires covered health care providers to disclose their NPIs to any entities that request the NPIs for use of those NPIs in HIPAA standard transactions.** Covered health care providers with subparts that have NPIs must ensure that the subparts comply with this disclosure requirement as well.*

Health plans and other health care industry entities may disclose health care providers' NPIs in directories and listings for dissemination to other health industry entities for purposes of using the NPIs in HIPAA standard transactions. While disclosures of health care providers' NPIs by health care industry entities to other health care industry entities for purposes of using NPIs in HIPAA standard transactions do not appear to violate any Federal laws, the entities making such disclosures should ensure that such disclosures do not violate any State laws.

We encourage health care industry entities who plan to make disclosures described above to ensure that the affected health care providers are aware, beforehand, of these plans and that the affected health care providers do not object to such disclosures. If disclosures are made without the affected health care providers' knowledge or consent, the entities making the disclosures could be faced with adversarial actions on the part of any or all of the affected health care providers."

NPI Contingency/Corrective Action Plan

Instructions: Please complete all three sections, Sections A, B and C and return the completed form to ACS by May 15, 2007.

SECTION A: Provider Information

Provider Name: _____

NPI(s): _____

NCPDP ID: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Contact Email Address: _____

SECTION B: Reason for Noncompliance

Not obtaining an NPI is not an acceptable reason for noncompliance.

I will not be in compliance with the requirement to use an NPI by the May 23rd federal deadline for following reason(s):

- Switch Vendor** is not able to accept NPIs.
- Other:** _____

Provide the name of the Clearinghouse, Vendor Software or Billing Agent if you marked one of those three boxes above.

SECTION C: Corrective Action Plan

Please explain your plan to be compliant with the NPI mandate. If you need more space, continue on the back of this page or attach additional pages.

Return this form to:
ACS Provider Relations
Attn: NPI Unit
P.O. Box 667
Cheyenne, WY 82003-0667
FAX: 307-772-8405




ACS GHS
504 West 17th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Check out what's happening with EqualityCare and the NPI at <http://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION! YOUR MEDICAID PAYMENTS MAY BE IN JEOPARDY!

The Wyoming Department of Health is the primary State agency for providing health and human services. It administers programs maintaining the health and safety of all citizens of Wyoming.

Commit to your health.



Wyoming Department of Health

Mission

We envision a Wyoming in which all citizens are able to achieve their maximum health potential; a Wyoming in which early intervention, wellness, health promotion, and health maintenance programs are the primary approach for solving health problems; a Wyoming in which all citizens have regular access to basic health care; a Wyoming in which at-risk citizens receive culturally appropriate and sensitive services; a Wyoming in which we and future generations are healthy, vital, and productive so as to seize the opportunity to live our individual dreams and enjoy the benefits of our bountiful resources and natural beauty.

Our mission is to promote, protect and enhance the health of all Wyoming Citizens.

Wyoming Department of Health
Office of Healthcare Financing

