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(789) National Provider Identifier (Updated 04/04/06)

The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a unique health identifier for health care providers who transmit health information in electronic format. The NPI resulted from a CMS project to develop a health care provider identification system to meet the needs of the Medicare and Medicaid programs and to meet the criteria for a national standard.

The IHCP is implementing NPI in a three-stage process. A detailed [IHCP Transition Plan](#) for the NPI project can be found on the IHCP Web site at http://www.indianamedicaid.com/ihcp/ProviderServices/np_transition.asp. Additionally, the IHCP Companion Guides have been updated to inform vendors how to submit NPI for Stage 1 of this project. The updated Companion Guides are available on the IHCP Web site at http://www.indianamedicaid.com/ihcp/TradingPartner/tp_companion_guides.asp.

The IHCP Stage 1 of implementation allows software vendors to begin modifying their software to submit NPI. However, the IHCP will continue requiring the IHCP provider number to be submitted. The existence of NPI will not result in rejection of the transaction. The submitted NPI will not be used for processing and will not be returned on the outbound transactions or reports.

The 270 transaction has been modified to allow for the submission of the NPI. Software vendors and clearinghouses may begin testing the 270 transaction on April 4, 2006.

Additional information about NPI can be found on the IHCP Web site at http://www.indianamedicaid.com/ihcp/ProviderServices/np_transition.asp.

Compliance Date: May 23, 2007