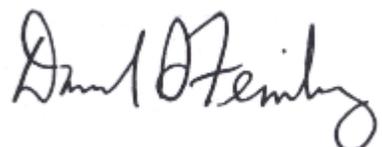


	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE		
	NUMBER: 99-05-13	ISSUE DATE: June 10, 2005	EFFECTIVE DATE: June 10, 2005
SUBJECT: Announcement of the National Provider Identifier Number		BY:  David S. Feinberg Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to announce to providers the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's (DPW) intent to implement the use of the National Provider Identifier (NPI) number.

SCOPE:

The bulletin applies to all providers enrolled in the Medical Assistance Program.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

As a result of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the federal Department of Health and Human Services has mandated the use of the National Provider Identifier (NPI) number, which is a standard unique identifier for health care providers.

The adoption of the NPI numbers will occur over a two-year time frame. The initial start date for health care providers to apply for and receive NPI numbers was May 23, 2005. The final compliance date for existing health care providers to apply, receive, and use the NPI number is May 23, 2007.

DPW is taking the initial steps to accommodate the use of NPI on provider enumeration/enrollment records, and on HIPAA transactions. DPW has identified several areas that need to be addressed prior to fully implementing this change:

- DPW will not be involved in the transfer of provider information to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the assignment of NPI numbers. Providers will therefore need to receive NPI numbers through CMS, and contact DPW with notification of their NPI number and taxonomy code(s). The method of obtaining the NPI number and the documentation required for verification will be determined by CMS.
- At this time, DPW feels that every health care provider, as defined by CMS, will be required to obtain and use an NPI number to enable provider identification on electronic transactions to other entities. DPW will consider all health care providers to be "covered entities."
- In addition to addressing the required changes inherent in the use of NPI numbers, DPW is aware of issues with payment, payment amounts, and service locations, and is working toward defining resolutions. Providers will be notified of these resolutions and any resultant policy changes that may become necessary.

PROCEDURES:

Providers must apply for an NPI number through CMS, who will begin assigning NPI numbers on May 23, 2005; however, DPW will defer acceptance and use of the NPI numbers to a later date. DPW will notify providers in advance regarding the deferred date of acceptance.

- DPW is developing procedures to accommodate the upcoming use of NPI numbers. When these procedures have been completed, DPW will inform providers of any actions they will need to take to use the new NPI numbers for billing purposes.
- Providers who are not considered “health care” providers by CMS will need to continue enumeration and enrollment with DPW using the PROMISE™ Master Provider Index (MPI) number assigned by DPW.

You may expect to see communications on NPI from any other programs you participate with, for example Medicare, other states' Medicaid programs, other insurance programs and CMS. Further communications regarding NPI will be posted to the Office of Medical Assistance web site, which may be accessed at: <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap/>
You may view the CMS provider communication on NPI on the CMS web-site at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2/>. This announcement letter informs health care providers obtaining an NPI, gives them guidance as to what they should do once they have obtained their NPI and provides contacts and resources should health care providers have questions about the NPI.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap.