Atypical Providers

What is an Atypical Provider?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) defines atypical providers as providers that do not provide health care. A health care provider is defined under HIPAA in Federal regulations at 45 CFR § 160.103. Taxi services, home and vehicle modifications, and respite services are examples of atypical services. Atypical providers may submit HIPAA transactions, but they do not meet the HIPAA definition of a health care provider and should not receive an NPI number.

Atypical Provider Types

Atypical Provider Types (PT) and Specialties are listed (pictured right) at the following link:

If all the services you provide at any given service location fall under the Provider Types and Specialties listed on this atypical list, you should not register an NPI with DHS for that particular service location.

Atypical provider type/specialty combinations are not listed on the DHS Taxonomy Crosswalk posted on the DHS National Provider Identifier (NPI) Web site.

Providers should carefully review the DHS Taxonomy Crosswalk and the Atypical Provider Types and Specialties list when determining if they need to register an NPI with DHS. A number of Provider Types are considered both atypical and health care. For example: Provider Type (52) Community Residential Rehabilitation with Specialty (523) Community Residential Rehabilitation is considered health care yet, Provider Type (52) Community Residential Rehabilitation with Specialty (521) Adult Residential is considered atypical.

What if a Provider is Both Atypical and Health Care?

If a provider is enrolled with a Provider Type and Specialty on the taxonomy crosswalk along with a Provider Type and Specialty on the atypical list at the same service location, they must use their registered NPI number when submitting all claims at that service location. For example, a nursing facility is a health care provider; however, the facility operates an adult day care center at the same service location. The adult day care center does not provide direct health care services and would be considered an atypical provider. The nursing facility must use an NPI for the adult day care center claims, even though the service the claim is generated for is an atypical (non-health care) service.