

May 19, 2008

National Provider Identifier Update: The NPI is here. The NPI is now. Are you using it?

As of 2006, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus have been accepting claims (both electronic and paper) submitted with a National Provider Identifier (NPI) as long as the legacy provider number was also reported. **Blue Cross is now ready to accept NPI-only transactions.**

Please remember that you will be required to notify us of your NPI numbers at least 30 days prior to submission of a transaction containing that NPI. This allows us time to fully incorporate your NPI numbers into our system. Submission of your NPI in a transaction **does not** meet notification requirements. Any transactions containing an NPI not in our system will be rejected. In such cases, your PA02 report will include the message INVALID NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER.

Share your NPIs

There are three ways to notify Blue Cross of your NPIs: web notification, bulk notification and paper notification. Please go to **bluecrossmn.com** for more information on how to notify Blue Cross of your NPIs. Adding NPIs to your transactions is not a collection method for Blue Cross. Phone calls or e-mails are also not an accepted method of notifying Blue Cross of your NPIs. Remember, we must receive your NPIs at least 30 days in advance of using your NPIs.

Use your NPIs

If you have notified Blue Cross of your NPIs, you may begin adding NPIs to all electronic and paper transactions. If you use a billing service or a clearinghouse, we recommend you contact them before sending NPI-only transactions to Blue Cross.

For information on where to add the NPI to your electronic transactions, see our HIPAA Companion Documents on **bluecrossmn.com**. For information on where to add the NPI to the 1500 claim form, visit **www.nucc.org** and for the UB-04 paper claim form, visit **www.nubc.org**.

Once you begin submitting NPI-only you must use NPI-only throughout the entire transaction.

Test NPI-only first

If you have been submitting transactions using dual-ID, test NPI-only by submitting a few transactions with the NPI as your only identifier. If the NPI-only transactions are processed successfully, continue to increase the volume of transactions sent with only the NPI. You do not need to notify us when you start sending NPI-only transactions.

Please route this bulletin to other interested staff.

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Provider remittances

When you submit NPI-only on your claims, you will receive one remittance for each NPI and each type of claim (e.g., institutional, professional). If we process a dual-ID claim (i.e., both the NPI and your current Blue Cross number) and an NPI-only claim within the same remittance period, you will get two remittances, one for the dual-ID claim showing the current Blue Cross number and one for the NPI-only claim showing only the NPI.

NPI questions?

Go to **bluecrossmn.com** for more NPI information. If you have any questions, please contact provider service at **(651) 662-5200** or toll free at **1-800-262-0820**.