

March 17, 2008

National Provider Identifier Update: Get it, share it, use 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.

When Blue Cross is ready to accept NPI-only transactions, 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. Once we begin accepting NPI-only transactions, 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

Blue Cross is in the dual-ID phase for all electronic and paper transaction processing. If you have notified Blue Cross of your NPIs, you may begin adding your NPI to all electronic and paper transactions.

Once you begin submitting dual identifiers, you must use dual identifiers throughout the transaction. If you use a billing service or a clearinghouse, we recommend you verify with them that both the NPI and legacy provider numbers are being transmitted with all of your transactions.

For information on where to add the NPI to your electronic transaction, see our HIPAA Companion Documents on **bluecrossmn.com**.

For information on where to add the NPI to the 1500 paper claim form, visit **www.nucc.org** and for the UB-04 paper claim form, visit **www.nubc.org**.

You must continue using your Blue Cross provider ID on all electronic and paper transactions until you are notified that Blue Cross has fully implemented its NPI-only solution.

Please route this bulletin to other interested staff.

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IMPORTANT: Continue using your current Blue Cross provider ID until further notice.

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.