

## ***NPI Update – Please Read!!!***

As you may be aware, CMS has recently announced their guidance for a contingency plan for covered entities not yet ready for the National Provider Identifier (“NPI”) implementation. To view this guidance, visit

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/Downloads/NPI\\_Contingency.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/Downloads/NPI_Contingency.pdf)

on the CMS website. A press release on this topic is also available at

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press\\_releases.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press_releases.asp)

on the web. This guidance allows for an extended contingency for processing NPI to May 23, 2008 if the covered entity shows ‘good faith’ efforts toward achieving compliance.

Based on the guidance from CMS and to better ensure a seamless process, we ask that you **continue to use the BCBSNE assigned provider number** for your claim transactions. We would also **encourage you to include your NPI** on the transactions as soon as you have communicated your NPI to BCBSNE and after your systems or clearinghouses can make the changes. BCBSNE will continue to process your claims using your BCBSNE assigned provider number, but will verify the NPI you submit on the transaction with the NPI we have on our provider file. This will allow us to clear up any potential errors before you begin submitting only the NPI on the transactions.

So what this means from a technical standpoint is to please work with your vendors and clearinghouses in order to:

- Continue to populate your BCBSNE assigned provider number in the REF segment in exactly the same way as today’s current format, which includes the “1A” (Institutional) or “1B” (Professional) qualifier for the following loops
  - 2010AA Billing Provider
  - 2310B Rendering Provider (Professional claims)
  - 2310E Service Facility (Institutional claims)
- Populate the NPI in the NM109 segment with an ‘XX’ qualifier
- You must **include the Tax ID** in the REF segment with an ‘EI’ qualifier. This is a change from the current format (currently the Tax-ID goes in the NM109 segment with a ‘24’ qualifier). Including the Tax ID in the REF segment is a requirement even after the NPI is implemented

We will continue to ask for the BCBSNE assigned provider number until it is clear that sending an NPI only on the claim does not disrupt the claims processing or your cash flow. CMS is mandating that this occur no later than May 23, 2008. Please review all communications from BCBSNE. If for any reason, your systems **do not** allow for sending both the BCBSNE assigned provider number and the NPI, please contact your Health Network Consultant prior to sending just an NPI for your claim transactions.