

South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Post Office Box 8206
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206
www.scdhhs.gov

September 26, 2006

MEDICAID BULLETIN

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TO: Providers Indicated

* Targeted Providers

SUBJECT: National Provider Identifier (NPI): Get It. Share It. Use It.
Getting an NPI is free. Not having one can be costly.

Effective May 23, 2007, in response to Health Insurance Portability and Accounting Act (HIPAA) mandates, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will require the use of NPI, instead of the South Carolina Medicaid provider number, on standard electronic transactions including claims, claim status queries/responses, eligibility queries/responses and remittance advices.

To be consistent with Medicare requirements and to streamline operations, SCDHHS will also require the use of NPI on hard copy claims effective May 23, 2007.

Get It: There is no charge to obtain an NPI. Providers can apply online for their NPI free of charge, by visiting <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>

or

by calling (1-800-465-3203) to request a paper application. Educational materials regarding NPI can be found by visiting

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/04_education.asp

and http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/dhhsnew/serviceproviders/npi_info.asp

Share It: Once an NPI is obtained, providers should share their NPI with SC Medicaid. This can be accomplished by:

1. visiting <https://secure.dhhs.state.sc.us/npi/index.asp>

or

2. forwarding a copy of the NPI enumeration document, with the following information noted on the document: provider's six character **SC Medicaid number** AND the provider's **taxonomy** code AND the provider's **zip+4** code, to:

Medicaid Provider Enrollment
PO Box 8809, Cola, SC 29202-8809;
(Fax): 803-699-8637 or (email): provider.enrollment@bcbssc.com

or

3. Utilizing the Excel format found at
<https://secure.dhhs.state.sc.us/npi/NPINotificationTemplateForType1and2.xls>

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Large providers may share NPI information. It should be forwarded to the email address above.

Provider taxonomies are HIPAA standard codes that classify the type and specialization of the provider. They can be found by visiting:

<http://www.wpc-edi.com/codes/taxonomy>.

SCDHHS has identified the need to create a crosswalk from the NPI to the SC Medicaid provider number. Because some providers may choose to utilize the same NPI for multiple SC Medicaid provider numbers, SCDHHS requires a unique combination of NPI and taxonomy code (chosen by the provider), for most current Medicaid provider numbers. One exception is the use of the same NPI and taxonomy code for the inpatient and outpatient Medicaid provider numbers. This unique combination is required to accurately price and pay the provider's claims. If the provider does not include the taxonomy code, when registering their NPI with the Medicaid program, SCDHHS will utilize the most common taxonomy for the provider. This listing can be viewed at [http://www.scdhhs.gov/internet/pdf/practice spec crosswalk bulletin090606.xls](http://www.scdhhs.gov/internet/pdf/practice_spec_crosswalk_bulletin090606.xls).

Use It: Providers should use their current six-character SC Medicaid provider number, their NPI and their taxonomy code on **electronic** claims now. Supplying all three numbers affords both the provider and SC Medicaid the opportunity to identify and correct any problems prior to May 23, 2007, when only the NPI will be utilized. The taxonomy used on the claim must agree with the taxonomy the provider registers with SCDHHS. Providers may refer to the revised South Carolina Medicaid Companion Guides for information regarding placement of the NPI and taxonomy code. The Companion Guides are located on the SCDHHS Web site at www.scdhhs.gov; click on "Electronic Data Interchange" under Programs and Services, and then select "SC Medicaid Companion Guides."

Effective May 23, 2007, there will be one payment and one remittance advice for each NPI. This means that using the same NPI for more than one current Medicaid provider number will result in one payment and remittance advice/835, as opposed to a separate payment and remittance advice/835 for each current Medicaid provider number associated with that NPI. For example, physician groups that have multiple group numbers based on practice location, that choose to enumerate the group with one NPI, will receive one payment and one remittance as opposed to a payment and remittance for each practice location. Likewise pharmacies that are also durable medical equipment (DME) providers, that choose to enumerate with one NPI, will receive one remittance advice and one payment that will include both pharmacy and DME claims.

If an organizational provider requires separation of payment and/or remittances, separate NPIs must be obtained and then registered with SCDHHS.

Questions regarding this Medicaid Bulletin may be directed to your program manager.

/s/

Robert M. Kerr
Director

RMK/smbb

NOTE: To receive Medicaid bulletins by email, please send an email to bulletin@scdhhs.gov indicating your email address and contact information.
To sign up for Electronic Funds Transfer of your Medicaid payment, please go to the following link for instructions:
<http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/dhhsnew/serviceproviders/eft.asp>