

South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
 Post Office Box 8206
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 www.dhhs.state.sc.us

April 24, 2006

MEDICAID BULLETIN

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TO: Providers Indicated

*** Targeted Providers**

SUBJECT: Sharing Your National Provider Identifier With The South Carolina Medicaid Program

The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is part of the HIPAA mandate requiring a standard unique identifier for healthcare providers. Effective May 23, 2007, providers who are covered entities under HIPAA may only use their unique NPI to identify themselves in standard transactions where an NPI is required, such as filing electronic health care claims, eligibility inquiries, and claims status inquiries. The S.C. Medicaid program may only use the NPI to identify the provider in electronic remittance advices. This ten-digit number will replace other identifiers such as your Medicaid, Medicare, BCBS, UPIN, Tri-Care and other payer provider numbers.

Individual providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, CRNAs, chiropractors, dentists, psychologists, physical therapists, speech therapists, audiologists, occupational therapists, optometrists, podiatrists, etc.) are strongly encouraged to furnish their NPI and Taxonomy Code to S.C. Medicaid by June 1, 2006.

Providers that are organizations (group practices, hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, lab/x-ray, home health, DME, ambulance, infusion centers, ambulatory surgical centers, home care nursing service providers, adult day health care providers, etc.) are strongly encouraged to furnish their NPI and Taxonomy Code to S.C. Medicaid by July 1, 2006.

Providing your NPI within the above timeframes will allow ample time for both the Medicaid program and the provider to make necessary system and/or business process changes to ensure a smooth transition and uninterrupted reimbursement. Providers who have already obtained an NPI should use both their current six-character Medicaid number

(legacy number) and NPI on electronic claims now. Supplying both numbers affords both the provider and S.C. Medicaid the opportunity to identify and correct any problems prior to May 23, 2007, when only the NPI can be utilized in HIPAA standard transactions.

Providers may refer to the revised South Carolina Medicaid Companion Guides for information regarding placement of the NPI. The Companion Guides are located on the SCDHHS Web site at www.scdhhs.gov click on "Electronic Data Interchange" under Programs and Services, then select "S.C. Medicaid Companion Guides."

Providers can share their NPI with South Carolina Medicaid in any of the following ways:

- 1) Register online at: <https://secure.dhhs.state.sc.us/npi/index.asp>
- 2) Send a copy of the document you received from the enumerator to:

Medicaid Provider Enrollment,

Mailing address: PO Box 8809, Columbia, South Carolina. 29202-8809

Fax: 803-699-8637

Email: provider.enrollment@bcbssc.com

Providers, who have not yet applied for an NPI can apply to the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) used by CMS to assign NPIs in any of the following ways:

- 1) Apply through the web address: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>
- 2) Call (800) 465-3203 or (800) 692-2326 (TTY) for a paper application
- 3) Email customerservice@npienumerator.com to obtain a paper application
- 4) Write to the NPI Enumerator, P.O. Box 6059, Fargo, N.D. 58108-6059

For more information on NPI, providers can access the following web sites:

<http://new.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProviderStand/>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/npi/npiviewlet.asp>

<http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/dhhsnew>

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

/s/

Robert M. Kerr
Director

RMK/bd

NOTE: To receive Medicaid bulletins by email or 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/QLEbulletins.asp>