



FACT SHEET

National Provider Identifier

The May 2007 deadline
will be upon us soon....

Are you ready?

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 requires the adoption of a standard unique identifier for healthcare providers. The National Provider Identifier (NPI) Final Rule issued Jan. 23, 2004 adopted the NPI as this standard. The entire healthcare industry will have to update their existing information systems, administrative processes, reference files and forms in order to ensure continuity between old provider identifiers and the new NPIs.

WHAT IS A NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER?

The NPI is a 10-digit, intelligence-free numeric identifier (10-digit number). Intelligence-free means that the numbers do not carry information about healthcare providers, such as the state in which they practice, their provider type or specialization. The NPI will replace healthcare provider identifiers in use today in HIPAA

standard transactions. The provider's NPI will not change and will remain with the provider regardless of job or location changes.

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR APPLYING AND WHEN WILL NPI BECOME EFFECTIVE?

All Entities:

- HIPAA-covered entities, such as healthcare providers who conduct HIPAA-standard transactions, healthcare clearinghouses, and all but small health plans, must use only the NPI to identify HIPAA-covered healthcare providers in standard transactions by May 23, 2007. Small health plans (less than \$5 million in annual revenues) must use only the NPI by May 23, 2008.

Medicare Providers:

- Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) providers can begin to use the NPI Jan. 3, 2006. Medicare systems will accept claims with an NPI, but an existing Medicare



legacy identifier must also be on the claim.

- Starting Oct. 2, 2006, Medicare FFS providers may submit an existing Medicare legacy identifier and/or an NPI on claims.
- If you are not a Medicare FFS provider or supplier, you need to be aware of the NPI readiness sched-

ule for each of the health plans with which you do business, as well as any practice management system companies or billing companies (if used). They should determine when each health plan intends to implement the NPI in HIPAA-standard transactions.

How Can Legacy Consulting Help?

- Provide in-depth analysis of NPI impacts to existing provider database
- Provide in-depth analysis of NPI impacts to existing claim payment and legacy systems
- Recommend and implement HIPAA-compliant solutions
- NPI implementation is a daunting task at best. Legacy Consulting Services wants to provide you with the premier resources at a competitive price. Legacy will partner with you to create the best solution for your organization.

Legacy Consulting Services is a nationally recognized consulting and solutions provider that has been helping healthcare organizations creatively respond to federal regulations, new industry standards and evolving technology to increase revenue, efficiency, and return on investment for over 10 years. Our core business model is to provide the very best possible service and solutions to facilitate the success of our clients.



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