

THE CHIROPRACTIC CHOICE

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NPI REMINDER

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System (NPPES) to assign these unique identifiers." The federal agency also stated that, "Use of the NPI will reduce costs and improve efficiency in the nation's health care system by eliminating the need for health care providers to maintain, keep track of, and use multiple identification numbers assigned by the various health plans they bill."

The NPI is a new number issued through the National Provider System and will replace all "legacy" identifiers that are currently being used. HHS describes the ten-digit NPI number applicants receive as being "intelligence free" meaning that no information about the holder of any assigned number is contained in that number, the digits being completely random.

All covered health care providers must obtain NPIs. Health care providers are covered entities if they transmit any data in electronic form in connection with a transaction for which the Secretary of Health and Human Services has adopted a standard. Covered entities must use NPIs in standard transactions no later than the compliance dates. The compliance date for providers is May 23, 2007.

A health care provider will be assigned only one NPI, and that NPI will not change over time. Adoption of the standard health care provider identifier enables a provider to use only one identifier — its NPI — to identify themselves in all standard transactions.

There are two primary ways to obtain an NPI:

- Complete the on-line application at the NPPES website— <https://NPPES.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>.
- Download the paper application form at www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProviderStand/ and mail it to the address on the form.

For instructions on applying on-line and the link to submit an electronic application you can also go to:

<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/StaticForward.do?forward=static.instructions>

Before you begin, make sure you have the following information required for individual providers:

- Provider name
- SSN (or ITIN if not eligible for SSN)
- Provider date of birth
- Country of birth
- State of birth (if Country of birth is U.S.)
- Provider gender
- Mailing address
- Practice location address and phone number
- Taxonomy (Provider type)
- State license information
- Contact person name
- Contact person phone number and Email

This information will be required to complete the NPI Application Form. You will not be able to save your work if you quit before you have completed the application form, and a number of doctors who have attempted to apply online, and who had not collected the required information outlined above in advance, found that their application process was "timed out" because of the length of time needed to research and obtain the required data.

ICA recommends that you have all the required information collected ahead of time, and that applicants may even want to download and fill in a paper application prior to submitting that data on-line to avoid such complications.

If the May 23rd deadline changes, ICA will immediately notify the chiropractic profession, but in the meantime ICA encourages all DCs to complete the registration process well ahead of the deadline.



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