

# Denti-Cal Bulletin



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## IMPORTANT HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA) REMINDERS

### *What's New?*

- ◆ Denti-Cal Bulletin Volume 21, Number 17, released in May 2005 stated that implementation of Current Dental Terminology Version 4 (CDT-4) codes would begin October 1, 2005. That date has changed. Implementation of CDT-4 will begin a month later on November 1, 2005. Please do not use the CDT-4 Codes until that date.
- ◆ CDT-4 training begins in September, in these cities: Bakersfield (September 27), Ontario (September 23), Riverside (September 22), Sacramento (September 30), and Stockton (September 29). Check Denti-Cal Bulletin Volume 21, Number 25 for additional details.
- ◆ The Manual of Criteria (MOC) and Schedule of Maximum Allowances (SMA) corresponding with CDT-4 codes will be distributed to provider offices in August. These will not be implemented until November 1, 2005, and should not be used until then.

### *National Provider Identifier (NPI)*

The NPI rule designates two categories of health care providers for the enumerating process:

**Entity Type Code 1:** Issued to individual care providers (for example, physicians, nurses, dentists, chiropractors, pharmacists, and physical therapists). Entity Type Code 1 NPIs are considered a permanent designation unless circumstances justify deactivation.

**Entity Type Code 2:** Issued to organizations (for example, hospitals, home health agencies, clinics, laboratories, group practices, HMOs, and pharmacies). Entity Type Code 2 NPIs are considered permanent designation unless circumstances justify deactivation. A new NPI is generally not required for a change of ownership, legal formation, location, address, taxonomy, name, employer identification number, state of licensure, or state license number.

### **How Does a Provider Get an NPI?**

1. Providers may apply through an easy Web-based application process beginning May 23, 2005. The Web address is <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>.

2. Providers may prepare a paper application and send it to the entity assigning the NPI (the Enumerator), beginning July 1, 2005. A copy of the application, including the Enumerator's mailing address, will be available on <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>. You may also call the Enumerator for a copy. The phone number is (800) 465-3203 or TTY (800) 692-2326. Written requests for applications can be sent to:

NPI Enumerator  
P.O. Box 6059  
Fargo, ND 58108-6059

3. With permission, an organization may submit an application in an electronic file on behalf of the provider. This could mean that a professional association or perhaps a provider who is an employer could submit an electronic file containing information and the information of other providers. This process will be available in the fall of 2005.

**Important NPI Reminders:**

- Covered dental providers will be required to obtain an NPI to use on all covered transactions.
- The compliance date for Denti-Cal providers, dental plans, and clearinghouses is May 23, 2007.
- Once the NPI is implemented nationally, providers will be able to utilize the NPI for all public and private payers.

Denti-Cal is currently assessing how the NPI will impact its operations and systems. Providers will be notified when the NPI will be accepted by Denti-Cal.

For more information about the NPI and/or the NPI enrollment application process, please visit the Web site for CMS at [www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2).