

Denti-Cal Bulletin



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HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA) National Provider Identifier (NPI) Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: What is an NPI number?

A: As part of HIPAA, the NPI establishes one unique identifier for each health care provider across the United States. The NPI is a 10-digit number replacing the Denti-Cal billing and rendering provider numbers (legacy IDs).

2. Q: Is it mandatory that I have an NPI number?

A: Yes, every **covered** healthcare provider (a billing provider who submits claims electronically, checks eligibility via a Point of Service (POS) device or the internet) **and** all rendering/treating providers who are employed by a **covered** billing provider must obtain and use an NPI.

3. Q: How do I get an NPI number?

A: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has established a National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) with the sole purpose of assigning NPIs. For additional information, and to complete an application, visit the NPPES Web site at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>, or you may call NPPES at (800) 465-3203 or (800) 692-2326 (TTY).

4. Q: How do I register my NPI(s) with Denti-Cal?

A: You may access a blank Denti-Cal NPI registration form on the Denti-Cal Web site at www.denti-cal.ca.gov. There is a link to the NPI registration form in the "What's New" section on the main page. Send the completed NPI registration form located on the front of the registration form.

5. Q: When is the deadline to register NPI(s) with Denti-Cal?

A: NPPES is already assigning NPI numbers using the application process. Once you receive your NPI(s) from NPPES, you must register them with Denti-Cal well before the May 23, 2007 deadline.

6. Q: Do both sides of the Denti-Cal NPI registration form have to be completed?

A: Only if applicable. Please follow the instructions on the March bulletin which includes an example registration form as well as a blank NPI registration form. You may also access a blank NPI registration form on the Denti-Cal Web site at www.denti-cal.ca.gov in the "What's New" section on the main page.

7. Q: Do I have to be registered with the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Program in order to obtain an NPI?
- A: No. In addition to EDI providers, all **covered** healthcare providers must obtain and use an NPI.
8. Q: Who should sign the registration form?
- A: The provider or an authorized representative listed on the registration form.
9. Q: Can each rendering/treating provider fill out his/her own registration form and send it to Denti-Cal?
- A: Yes, although it is recommended that the rendering/treating provider notify the billing provider or billing intermediary to prevent duplicate registration.
10. Q: Where should I send my NPI Registration form(s)?
- A: Completed Denti-Cal NPI registration forms should be sent to the Denti-Cal address located on the registration form.
11. Q: How do I know if my registration form has been received by Denti-Cal?
- A: Denti-Cal will notify providers upon receipt of NPI registration forms.
12. Q: What is a Taxonomy Code and how do I find it?
- A: A taxonomy code identifies areas of specialization, e.g., dentist, physician, pharmacist, etc. You will need to know your taxonomy code in order to apply for an NPI with NPPES. For assistance in identifying your taxonomy code, please visit www.wpc-edi.com/taxonomy or http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/npi/docs/taxonomy_61.pdf.
13. Q: When should I order updated forms (claims/TARs) that identify my NPI?
- A: You may begin to order new forms in early May, placing your order by mail or by FAX to the forms supplier. If you have any questions, please contact the Denti-Cal Customer Service Telephone Service Center at (800) 423-0507.