

NPI: Are you prepared with yours?

The NPI (National Provider Identifier) will be the single Provider Identifier replacing the different, various Provider Identifiers that you currently use for each health plan with which you do business.

This Identifier is HIPPA compliant, and must be used by HIPPA covered entities. Those entities are health plans, healthcare clearing houses and healthcare providers that conduct electronic transactions.

The NPI requirement will be mandated by **May 23, 2007**.

It is highly recommended that you apply for your NPI number as soon as possible to prepare for the compliance mandate ahead of time.

You can apply for the NPI through the following web address;

<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>

You can also apply by telephone by calling 1-800-465-3203.

BCBSMA: PO Boxes for Claims and Correspondence will expire!

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts sent all providers an "F.Y.I." in September of 2006 listing new post office (P.O.) boxes for you to use when submitting claims and correspondence to them.

The old P.O. Boxes will **expire April 1, 2007**. To prevent any delays in processing your claims, please begin using the new address immediately.

If you use software to print claim forms or any other communications that contain a BCBSMA address, please make the necessary changes to your system.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact your Provider Relations Manager at **800-316-2583**.

Use the following addresses effective immediately:

▶ To submit CMS-1500 paper claims / coordination of benefits / 3rd party claims
PO Box 986020. Boston, MA 02298

▶ UB-92 paper claims
PO Box 986015. Boston, MA 02298

▶ Blue Card Claims
PO Box 98625. Boston, MA 02298

▶ To submit correspondence related to Provider Enrollment
PO Box 55350. Boston, MA 02205

▶ BlueCard medical records / correspondence
PO Box 986035. Boston, MA 02298

▶ Provider Services (BlueLinks for Providers / Provider Website)
PO Box 986060. Boston, MA 02298

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10 Security Domains...

In today's electronic and hybrid environment, Health professionals must understand computer security concepts to fully protect privacy. Securing an individual's electronic health information is integral to protecting privacy. The connection between privacy and security is critical for Health professionals to understand. The ability to understand basic security principles is equally as important.



Information Security must support the mission of your organization.

"The cost should be proportionate to the value and degree of reliance on the computer system...."

This practice brief will identify the foundation of security—the 10 security domains—and provide a highlight of each domain's key principles. It is important to note that the 10 security domains are different from the HIPAA security rule. These domains provide the foundation of security principles and practices.

Information security must support the mission of the organization. Organizations need to protect their information assets and must decide the level of risk they are willing to accept when determining the cost of security controls. The best, newest, or costliest technology isn't necessarily the right solution for every organization. "The cost should be proportionate to the value and degree of reliance on the computer system and the severity, probability and extent of potential harm – the requirements for security will vary depending on the particular organization and computer system," according to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

To provide a common body of knowledge and define terms for information security professionals, the International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium (ISC) created ten 10 security domains. These domains provide the foundation for security practices and principles in all industries, not just healthcare:

1. Security management practices
2. Access control systems and methodology
3. Telecommunications and networking security
4. Cryptography
5. Security architecture and models
6. Operations security
7. Application and systems development security
8. Physical security
9. Business continuity and disaster recovery planning
10. Laws, investigation, and ethics

If you are interested in pursuing a credential in security, there are resources available with the details needed to fully understand the concepts and principles of each domain.

In order to maintain confidentiality, integrity and availability of data, it is important to control access to the information system. Controls prevent unauthorized users from accessing the system and/or altering data. They also prevent authorized users from making unauthorized changes to data. When planning the type of access controls necessary, an organization must evaluate its risks, threats, and vulnerabilities.

The key to access controls is declaring who you are when before entering a system and having the system verify that you are allowed access. This is known as identification and authentication. Use PINs, a Smart Card, or other identifying measure. Security is key!

ICD – 10: Essential Component of the 21 Century...

Information management is one of the most important methods to improve the quality of health data and patient care processes. ICD-9-CM is obsolete and is unable to meet current healthcare data needs or support the transition to an interoperable health data exchange in the US. Developed 30 years ago, it cannot accurately describe the diagnoses and inpatient procedures of care delivered in the 21st century. ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS must be adopted as soon as possible to reverse the trend of deteriorating health data and to allow the healthcare industry to prepare for a smooth transition to modern classification systems before the end of this decade.

While the US is working hard to adopt health information technology, it must also accommodate a robust 21st century classification system. Adoption of national electronic health records (EHRs) and interoperable information networks require modern classification systems for summarizing and reporting data. Major health initiatives that rely on complete and accurate data are

compromised by the continued use of ICD-9-CM. These initiatives include quality measurement, pay-for-

-performance, medical error reduction, public health reporting, biosurveillance, actuarial premium setting, cost analysis, and service reimbursement.

ICD-9-CM should have been replaced 10 years ago. Each year that passes results in further deterioration of this classification system and the data it produces. Further delays in adoption of ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS also increase the cost of an eventual implementation once ICD-9-CM completely breaks down.

Replacing ICD-9-CM with ICD-10-CM is necessary in order to maintain clinical data comparability with the rest of the world concerning the conditions prompting healthcare services. The longer the healthcare industry continues to use ICD-9, the more difficult it becomes to share disease and mortality data at the time when such global data sharing is critical for public health.

-AHIMA, Feb. 07

“ICD-10 must be adopted as soon as possible to reverse the trend of deteriorating health data...”

HCFA-1500: Will accommodate NPI

The CMS 1500 HCFA form is being revised to accommodate the reporting of the National Provider Identifier (NPI). It will become the CMS-1500 (08/05).

On February 1, 2007, the current CMS-1500 (12/90) will be discontinued; only the revised CMS 1500 (08/05) form is to be used.

All RE-billing of medical claims should use the revised CMS 1500

(08/05) form from February 1, 2007 forward., even though *earlier* submissions may have been on the CMS 1500 (12/90).

The change log that lists the various changes made to the CMS 1500 (08/05) version can be viewed at

http://www.nucc.org/images/stories/PDF/change_log.pdf on the National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) web site.



The CMS 1500 HCFA form is being revised... February 1, 2007!

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- Phone/Data systems analysis, other bills, etc.
- Nortel and Cisco Certified

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EMR (Electronic Medical Records)

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Personal Health Records

- Via partner company, Direct Health Access, LLC (I.C.E.)

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LIS (Lab Information Systems)

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Special Projects / (Other)



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