



The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a component of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). The NPI is a 10-digit single provider identification number the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) assigned through the National Plan and Provider Enumerator System (NPPES) to uniquely identify a physician, other health care professional or institution within specified electronic HIPAA transactions. It is intended to improve the efficiency of the health care system and reduce fraud and abuse. Ultimately, the NPI replaces all existing identification numbers including the Medicare, Medicaid, Unique Physician Identification Number (UPIN) and plan provider identification numbers.

HealthLink has reviewed the requirements of the NPI and completed implementing our strategy to integrate the NPI into our information systems (e.g., claims adjudication, financial, provider databases, etc.). Since February 20, 2009, if claims are submitted to us electronically with HealthLink Legacy ID numbers, even if they also include the NPI, are rejected and require resubmission with only the NPI.

The requirement of the NPI in electronic transactions only applies to electronic transactions subject to the HIPAA requirements as set forth in the HIPAA Transactions and Code Sets Standards. For paper claims forms transactions, we strongly encourage the use of the NPI on the current standard claim forms to minimize any disruption to claims payment.

If you have additional questions regarding NPI, contact HealthLink at 800-624-2356.