

THE NPI IS HERE. THE NPI IS NOW!

BCBSNC is compliant with the administrative simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) which require a national standard identifier for health care providers. That standard identifier – the National Provider Identifier (NPI) – was scheduled to be in place by May 23, 2008 for all providers submitting health care transactions electronically.

BCBSNC worked diligently to meet the May, 23 2008 NPI Compliance deadline and would like to thank our provider community for their assistance. Provider participation and feedback via our outreach efforts (direct phone calls, mailings, provider workshops, etc.) provided us with valuable information to assist in our NPI implementation.

The following information may be helpful as you work towards NPI Compliance and integration:

How to Apply for Your NPI

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) contracted with Fox Systems to be the enumerator responsible for administering the assignment of the NPI(s) to providers. Providers may apply via a Web site or by submitting a paper application.

To apply for NPI at NPPES: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>

The following CMS sources can provide you with updates and information about NPI:

- CMS NPI online resources can be accessed at:
www.cms.hhs.gov/HIPAAGenInfo
www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvidentStand

Register Your NPI with BCBSNC

If you have not registered your NPI with BCBSNC please register as soon as possible. You may register with BCBSNC by contacting your Network Management Field Office. When you register your NPI with BCBSNC, the information is shared with our subsidiary, PARTNERS National Health Plans of North Carolina, Inc.

NPI Claims Processing at BCBSNC

- BCBSNC began the NPI Dual Use phase in October 2006 and remained in Dual Use until moving to compliance May 23, 2008. **Please note:** At NPI Compliance, BCBSNC rejects any electronic transaction that does not contain an NPI. This includes all transactions executed through Blue e.

While BCBSNC policy currently does not require an NPI for paper submitted transactions, an NPI may be required for paper claims submission in mid-2009. Providers are encouraged to obtain and incorporate the NPI into their office practices accordingly.

Helpful Information for Providers

BCBSNC understands that this period of transition from using Legacy IDs to NPI can be challenging. Please feel free to contact BCBSNC regarding any questions you may have

regarding our policies and procedures for NPI. Here are some helpful suggestions to ensure a smooth transition:

- Register all NPIs for your organization and its associated individuals with all payors including BCBSNC (including new providers joining your practice);
- Work with all payors to understand how they implemented the NPI HIPAA-mandate and what it means to your relationship with that payor;
- Work with your software vendor and/or clearinghouse for NPI-related issues including (but not limited to) transmission problems, placement of NPIs on transactions and claim rejection discrepancies.

If you have other questions, please contact your local BCBSNC Network Management field office:

Office Location	Toll Free Number
Charlotte	(800) 754-8185
Greensboro	(888) 298-7567
Greenville	(888) 291-1780
Hickory	(877) 889-0002
Raleigh	(800) 777-1643
Wilmington	(877) 889-0001

For questions or issues concerning your electronic transactions, please contact eSolutions Customer Service at 1-888-333-8594.