

December 12, 2005

RE: New National Provider Identifier (NPI)

Dear Provider:

Do you have your National Provider Identifier (NPI)?

Recently enacted regulations adopt the NPI as the standard unique identifier for health care providers for use in the HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) transactions and other lawful purposes. The purpose of these provisions is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the electronic transmission of health information. The NPI will be the single provider identifier, replacing the different provider identifier(s) you currently use for each health plan with which you do business. In short, the NPI has ten all numeric positions (with the last position being a check digit) and contains no embedded information about the provider.

If you have not already applied for your NPI, we **strongly** encourage you to do so. Your NPI will be issued by the National Provider and Plan Enumeration System (NPPES). NPPES will be responsible for receiving and assisting providers with the applications, assigning a unique NPI to each requestor, deactivating and activating NPIs as appropriate, and updating information, for example.

You will be able to apply for your NPI in one of three ways:

- Apply through an easy Web-based application process. The Web address is: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>
- Paper application - completed and sent to the entity that will be assigning the NPI (the Enumerator) on behalf of the secretary. A copy of the application, including the Enumerators mailing address, is available online at: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> You may also call the Enumerator for a copy. The telephone number is 1-800-465-3203 or TTY 1-800-692-2326.
- With your permission, an organization may submit your application in an electronic file. This could mean that a professional association or perhaps a health care provider who is your employer could submit an electronic file containing your information and the information of other health care providers.

You can review additional NPI information covering: (1) General Information – Frequently Asked Questions, (2) Regulations and Standards – Identifier Standards, and (3) Future Updates at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hippa2/default.asp>

Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation (WPS) will begin accepting your 837 Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) transactions with NPIs as of January 1, 2006. If an NPI is given, you must continue to provide your Federal Tax Identification Number as well as any legacy provider numbers that you use today. If you only send an NPI, your claims will be rejected & returned for correction. If applicable, be sure to check with your vendor/clearinghouse to ensure they have appropriate programming in place to allow them to submit your electronic files, complete with the NPI. WPS will be sending you additional correspondence in the future related to NPI and your EDI transactions, along with any other related educational information.

Please contact us at (800) 782-2680 Option #2 if you require additional information.

Sincerely,  
WPS Electronic Data Services