

NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER (NPI) INFORMATION

The Board of Registration in Medicine (Board) is a designated repository for the National Provider Identifier (NPI) number. The NPI is a unique identification number assigned to all health care providers. Every health care provider will be required to have an NPI for any business transaction or reimbursement with the federal government.

The “designated repository” status means that the Board can help physicians by processing a request for an NPI number on behalf of any Massachusetts physician. A physician may choose to (1) obtain his/her own NPI number, (2) have a hospital or health plan secure the number on his/her behalf, or (3) take advantage of this free service from the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine by completing the NPI information.

The National Provider Identifier (NPI)

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) mandates the use of the NPI, a unique identifier for health care providers. The NPI program is overseen by The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). All health care providers who choose to transmit any health information in electronic form will be required to obtain and use an NPI. Health care providers include physicians and other practitioners. The NPI is a unique identifier that will replace other identifiers assigned to health care providers, such as those assigned by health plans, government programs and health care purchasers for the purpose of conducting these business transactions.

The NPI will not replace the TIN (Taxpayer Identifying Number), the DEA number (Drug Enforcement Agency), and the EIN (Employer Identification number). Under the final HIPAA NPI rule, all individuals, organizations and covered providers will be required to obtain an NPI by May 23, 2007.

Facts About the NPI

The NPI is a permanent identification number and

- is mandated by federal regulation
- assigned for life regardless of the number of state licenses
- required by health plans for their enrollment and reimbursement process
- will identify a provider wherever he/she provides services
- will simplify transactions, including claim submissions, and will be cost effective.

To report your NPI number or request the Board of Registration in Medicine to apply for the NPI number on your behalf, please go to the Board’s website at massmedboard.org and select “NPI Reporting Form” and follow the instructions. Please send the completed form to: Board of Registration in Medicine, 560 Harrison Avenue, G-4, Boston, Massachusetts 02118.

Please make a copy of the NPI Reporting Form for your records.