



04/30/2007

Attention National Provider Identifier (NPI)

Dear Provider,

Caremark's compliance date for Pharmacy NPI submission is 5/23/07

This is the fourth notification to make you aware of the National Provider Identifier (NPI) and how Caremark plans to implement its usage. This notice includes details of our contingency arrangements for those pharmacies unable to submit their NPI from 5/23/07 onwards.

Caremark is already compliant with the NPI number requirements for all standard HIPAA transactions and is in turn mandating that all its participating pharmacies are compliant by May 23, 2007. If you are not already, you are required to get an NPI and send it on all claims by this date. **Any pharmacy that does not send its NPI from this date will be considered non-compliant.** The NPI and qualifier fields should be used, replacing the NCPDP number which is sent today. Please note NPI detail will be provided on 835/Pharmacy Payment files generated for claims processed from 5/23/07 onwards.

These 2 fields in the Transaction Header Segment should be used to submit the pharmacy NPI:

- Service Provider ID Qualifier (202-B2) – Value of '01' should be sent here
- Service Provider ID (201-B1) – NPI number should be sent here

When identifying the prescriber on a claim submission, we ask that you send the prescriber's NPI. If a NPI is not available for the prescriber, you may use the prescribing Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) number, unless its use is prohibited in a particular State. Please note that a NPI must also be submitted, if available, for any controlled substances. It is the pharmacist's responsibility to ensure that a prescriber is permitted to prescribe a particular drug, but it is not necessary to pass the DEA number back to Caremark in place of the NPI number. The continued submission of a DEA, if a NPI is unavailable, **will not be considered a non-compliance issue at this time.**

These 2 fields should be used in the Prescriber Segment when submitting a prescriber NPI:

- Prescriber ID Qualifier (466-EZ) – Value of '01' should be sent here
- Prescriber ID (411-DB) – NPI number should be sent here

Contingency plan for non-compliant pharmacies

Transactions received between 5/23/07 and 5/22/08 without a pharmacy NPI will be considered non-compliant but will not reject in order to minimize patient and pharmacy disruption. However, a penalty fee of .99 will be charged for every non-compliant transaction received from 5/23/07 onwards.

To apply for an NPI please visit www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProviderStand. There is no cost for obtaining your NPI. Please remember to provide your NPI number to NCPDP. This will ensure that any payers using the NCPDP pharmacy data files can process your transactions. You can do this by logging on to www.ncdpd.org and following their instructions.

We appreciate your consideration of these issues. Please feel free to contact us for additional information at 800-288-7384.

Thank you for your cooperation,

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