

**Western Highlands Network
Communication Bulletin #54
2/19/07**

National Provider Identifier (NPI)

What is NPI, How to Register, and How to Bill

This communication bulletin explains Western Highlands Network's NPI registration and billing requirements. Incorrect registration or claims submission may result in denied claims. These requirements are effective May 17, 2007.

What is NPI?

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires adoption of a standard unique identifier for health care providers. The NPI will replace health care provider identifiers in HIPAA standard transactions.

Do I Need an NPI?

The State has taken the position of following the Division of Medical Assistance lead. Western Highlands will adhere to the Division of Medical Assistance policies and procedures. The DMA position is a Medicaid direct enrolled number requires an NPI. How you choose to associate an NPI with direct enrollment is an individual business decision. Some aspects of NPI are under consideration by the State, Western Highlands will communicate any future State policy or procedural updates upon notice from the State.

How do I Obtain an NPI?

You may obtain an NPI through the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) website: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>. Since Western Highlands is a State and Medicaid funded agency, WHN must adhere to the DMA registration and billing policies and procedures.

How to Register the NPI with WHN?

Western Highlands will accept either a copy of the DMA NPI Collection Form or the Western Highlands Network NPI Collection Form with the NPPES certification.

You may e-mail these documents to WHN at billingquestions@westernhighlands.org, fax to (828) 225-1225, mail to Western Highlands, 356 Biltmore Ave, Attn: Claims and Reimbursement, Asheville, NC 28801, or drop-off at this address. Note: NPI Collection Forms received at the LME will not be sent to DMA. They are for local registration only.

How to Bill with NPI?

Western Highlands accepts claims in three methods; CMS-1500, Direct Data Entry, or the TXN 837 Health Care Claim Professional (837). Each claim filing method has specific NPI requirements. Each method is intended to offer claims adjudication mapping solutions cross walking the NPI to the provider's identifier.

An example is a provider obtained a Medicaid Community Intervention provider identifier for Community Support of 8300001B. The provider chose to associate NPI number 1234567891 to 8300001B. The NPI is reported on the claim. The claim's adjudicator will crosswalk the NPI with the registered Medicaid Community Intervention provider identifier and validate acceptable service delivery.

CMS-1500 (08/05)

The CMS-1500 has been revised to include the NPI and other data sets to facilitate claims adjudication mapping solutions. You may obtain the revised form at the DMA website <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms/downloads/CMS1500805.pdf>. Specific instructions and examples are available in the *NC DMA Medicaid Special Bulletin, New Claim Form Instructions, December 2006*, posted at the DMA website <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma/NPI.htm>. The DMA and LME will accept the CMS-1500 (08/05) version and will no longer accept previous versions after May 17, 2007.

Direct Data Entry

The Western Highlands' Direct Data Entry is under development to accept the NPI and associated mapping solutions. Further guidance will be published in advance and prior to May 17, 2007.

837

Western Highlands will follow the Medicaid TXN 837 Health Care Claim (Professional)837, specifications found on the DMA website at <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma/hipaa/compguides.htm>. Western Highlands will no longer accept previous versions after May 17, 2007.

Technical Assistance

Please seek technical assistance with Western Highlands through either billingquestions@westernhighlands.org or phone (828) 225-2800 ext. 2191. Please visit our website at <http://www.wwesternhighlands.org/> for Fact Sheets, Registration Forms, Companion Guides, and DMA links relative to NPI.