

National Provider Identifier



The NPI is a unique 10 digit numeric identifier assigned to healthcare providers and organizations defined as covered entities under HIPAA. VCHCP encourages all providers to include their NPI on all paper and electronic transactions submitted to VCHCP. If you are capable of receiving an electronic 835, be sure you are ready to receive the NPI back. Receiving the NPI on electronic transactions will be the preferred method for notifying VCHCP of your NPI.

NPI Reminder

As the industry continues to move towards full NPI compliance, remember that legacy identifiers, UPINs, state license IDs, rendering provider Tax IDs, etc are no longer allowed on claim submissions. Including identifiers can cause your claims to delay or even reject. Please check with your vendors to ensure these are not being submitted on our electronic claims.

Use of NPI is Now Mandatory

Beginning May 17, 2008 VCHCP moved into compliance with the NPI mandate and began to enforce use of NPI only on HIPAA standard transactions. HIPAA electronic transactions included under the mandate will require use of an NPI. Provider claims (HIPAA 837 I, P & D) must contain an NPI, or they will be rejected by the clearinghouses VCHCP has contracted with.

Providers are strongly encouraged to obtain an NPI if they have not already done so and to begin using their NPI on all electronically submitted claims **prior** to the mandate date to avoid disruption in cash flow. Please ensure that your practice management system or billing service has your NPI(s) implemented for use on electronic claims.

VCHCP will begin including the NPI with the Remittance Advice data once VCHCP has received the NPI on claims submitted. In the spirit of administrative simplification, and in conjunction with CMS recommendations, providers submitting paper claims are also encouraged to use their NPI.

National Provider Identifier (NPI) Dual Identifier Quick Reference Guide

The purpose of this document is to assist VCHCP's professional and institutional providers in understanding which fields on electronic claims submission forms should be modified to support dual identifier use and the National Provider Identifier mandate. This guide does not replace any of the HIPAA requirements on an 837 claim. If you have questions regarding your NPI, please call VCHCP Customer Service at (805) 981-5050.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply for an NPI?

- Individual health care providers, such as physicians, dentists and pharmacists.
- Organizational health care providers, such as hospitals, pharmacies, group practices, laboratories, ambulatory care facilities and nursing homes.



How does a health care provider apply for an NPI?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with a vendor to administer the assignment of NPIs and deal with health plans and providers on issues concerning unique identification.

There are only three ways a health care provider can apply for an NPI:

- Complete the application online at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> . Estimated time to complete the NPI application is 20 minutes.
- Call 1-800-465-3203 to request a paper application.
- With the provider's permission, an organization may submit the application in an electronic file on behalf of the provider.

Will nonparticipating provider NPIs be collected by VCHCP?

Yes, VCHCP encourages all providers to obtain, share and use their NPI, regardless of their participation status or transaction submission method.