

## **NPI Announcement: 04/02/07**

### **NPI Get It, Share It, Use It**

CMS has estimated that it will take providers between 90 - 120 days to implement NPIs into their system and regular working functions. We now have less than 90 days until the implementation date of May 23, 2007, so if you have not gotten your NPI now is the time to do so.

Once providers have received their NPIs, they should share their NPIs with other providers with whom they do business, and with health plans that request their NPIs. In fact, as outlined in current regulation, providers must share their NPI with any entity that may need it for billing purposes -- including those who need it for designation of ordering or referring physicians. Providers should also consider letting health plans, or institutions for whom they work, share their NPIs for them.

In addition to updating critical data and legacy numbers in the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES), Medicare providers should include **both** their NPIs and their Medicare legacy numbers on their Medicare claims until May 22, 2007. This will help Medicare build its NPI crosswalk by enabling Medicare to link providers' NPIs to their Medicare legacy numbers. In addition, when Medicare providers make changes to their Medicare enrollment information, they are now required to furnish their NPIs. Providers applying for Medicare enrollment must furnish their NPIs on their enrollment applications.

However, Medicare providers do not need to take any additional actions to inform Medicare of their NPIs.

**Getting an NPI is free - not having one can be costly.**