



NPI Coalition Meeting
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2006
1:00 p.m.

Participants:

Val Friedig - Facilitator
Becky Blee - Medical Services
Bev Locken - Medicaid
Brenda Wahl - Medicaid
Leann Bayman - Children Special Health Services
Mark Gudmunsen - Medical Services
Barb Gaarder - Medical Services
Warren Granfor - Disability Services
Dave Peske - North Dakota Medical Association
Deb Dietz - Medicaid
Candace Johnson - Human Service Center
Tammy Henderson - Medicaid

Via Phone:

Wendy Burckhard - Fiscal Department Central Billing
Joanne - MedCenter One
Heather Strandell - Altru Health System
Jerry - Altru Health System
Colleen - Altru Cavalier
Sue Bickel - North Dakota DDS
Jenny May - North Dakota DDS
Margo - Trinity Hospital
Dana, Judy, Karen and Tonya - Dakota Clinic

- Introductions
 - Val Friedig began the meeting with introductions and she gave a brief overview of what would be covered in today's meeting.
 - Please e-mail your name, organization and e-mail information to vfriedig@nd.gov to be put on a mailing list
- What is NPI?
 - Today, North Dakota Medicaid assigns identification numbers (Medicaid Provider Numbers) to providers, individuals, groups, and organizations that provide medical or other health services or supplies. As a result, providers who do business with multiple states have multiple identification numbers. The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a unique identification number for health care providers that will be used by all health plans nationwide.

- The NPI will be a 10 digit numeric field that will include one check digit in the tenth position to ensure accuracy. The NPI will contain no imbedded intelligence.
- It is one of the provisions of the Administrative Simplification portion of HIPAA (the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996). It is not a Medicaid initiative.
- Entities covered by HIPAA using electronic transactions must comply. Paper transactions are not considered electronic transactions, however the HCFA and UBs are changing to accommodate the NPI.
- May 23, 2007 is the compliance date. That is the date when DHS will be prepared to accept just the NPI and providers will be submitting claims using only the NPI.
- Each health care provider will have only 1 NPI and that number will never change except in cases of death or fraud.
- There are 3 ways to apply for an NPI
 - Web-based process
 - Completing a paper NPI application and mailing it to the enumerator
 - Bulk enumeration process
 - For additional information on applying for an NPI please refer to the NPPES website www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov
- You can find more information about NPI on our website or CMS website
- **Purpose of the Coalition**
 - Share our expectations and our readiness
 - We can give guidance and suggestions but we cannot tell you what to do
 - Open forum for discussion and to ask questions
 - We are in the process of developing a website for you to register your NPI and will let you know when it is ready. Right now we are shooting for late August, early September for that to be ready.
 - Watch our website and RAs for information, additional information, and future coalition meetings
- **Status of acquiring NPIs**
 - Some of the meeting attendees had applied and/or received their NPIs
 - Our plan is to have you submit your Medicaid Provider number and NPI beginning October 2, 2006 and just your NPI beginning May 23, 2007
- **Changes to the paper claims**
 - Tammy Henderson talked about the changes to the paper claims. She began the discussion by saying that the UB forms and the HCFA 1500's will be changing. The NUCC, National Uniform Claims Committee, announced the release of the draft with the following timeline to use the new HCFA 1500 forms:
 - October 1, 2006 – health plans, clearing houses, and other information support vendors should be ready to handle and accept the revised HCFA 1500 forms.
 - October 1, 2006 through February 1, 2007 – Providers can use either the 12/90 version or the 8/05 version. So up until February 1, 2007 you can use either version but starting on February 1, 2007 you can only use the new version.

- There are samples of the HCFA 1500 that can be viewed at: www.NUCC.org
 - The UB-92s as we now know them will be changing. During the period of March 2007 through May 22, 2007, providers can use either one.
 - The web site to view the new UB-92 forms can be found at: www.NUBC.org
- **Web sites for reference – These will be posted to our DHS website soon**
 - NPES - www.npes.cms.hhs.gov
 - Washington publishing - www.wpc-edi.com/
 - Noridian – www.noridian.com
 - CMS forms – www.cms.hhs.gov/forms - this site also has detail instruction on how to fill out your NPI.
 - customerservice@npienumerator.com
 - Step by step process on how to fill out NPI application - www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/npi/npiviewlet.asp
 - New HCFA form - National Uniform claim committee - www.nucc.org
 - UB 92 form - NUBC – National Uniform Billing Committee – www.nubc.org
- Becky Blees stated that we are in the process of revising the web site for Medicaid. Currently you will find all of this information if you click on the yellow “Update” box. What we plan on doing is making a web page just for NPI. As soon as we get that done that is where you will find all the information about NPI. You will also find, under the “Update” box, the times for the future coalition meetings, the location, and dial-in and pass code information. The web site for Medicaid is: www.nd.gov/humanservices/services/medicalserv/medicaid/provider.html
- **Open Discussion of issues and questions:**
 - MedCenter One indicated that they have received quite a few of their NPIs. They found that at first it was much faster but now that a lot more people are applying for NPI’s it has been slower.
 - Altru Health System stated that they are still trying to work on their bulk enumeration. They are trying to get electronic submission but in the mean time, because of the May 1st requirement for any new providers to obtain their Medicaid number to get an NPI, they have two processes going on at the same time.
 - Altru Health Systems asked MedCenter how they had applied for their numbers that they had received so far. MedCenter indicated that they did them online but not through the bulk process. They had just been doing them individually. One of the problems they have been running into is when they are applying for numbers for new providers who already have the NPI number; they don’t send back to them a notification that tells them that there is an existing number and what it is. They haven’t gotten any response at all on those and they don’t tell them that there is an existing number out there or anything. Becky Blees stated that she believes that CMS’s web site indicates that they do not check for duplications.
 - Dakota Clinic stated that they had submitted some applications for some local providers who had, as it turned out, already gotten their own NPI number. Dakota Clinic has been getting letters that state that there already is an NPI issued to that

person. They don't disclose what the number is in the letter but they have told them that there already has been a number issued. After receiving such a letter, Dakota Clinic then contacts the provider to get that NPI number. It takes a couple of weeks to get that letter.

- Wendy, from the Department of Human Services billing department, stated that all 8 regions had obtained their organization NPI numbers and are working on their individual providers now and have received their NPI numbers for some of them.
- Dave, from the North Dakota Medical Association, suggested that we invite Noridian to the next NPI conference call and Val said that we would invite them.
- Dave also questioned if the NPI number contained anything that was secret within them. You should watch who you give them to but because the numbers will be on the RA's, and that they would replace whatever DHS sends out that currently has the provider number on it. Becky Bles said that we could share the files between the State agencies without any problems whatsoever as long as the entity you are sharing it out with is an agency the State works with.
- A question was raised asking if there was going to be anything on the web site that would give someone the ability to look up NPI numbers. Val stated that, to the best of her knowledge, there would not be that sort of thing available.
- Val also said that these meetings are open for anyone who is affected by NPI's and wished to participate. The meeting invitations will be posted on the RA's as well as quarterly Medicaid bulletins.
- Dave Peske stated that he would like to see the meeting announcement incorporated within the North Dakota Medical Association newsletter. Val didn't think there would be a problem with that.
- **Next meeting is scheduled for July 12th, same location and dial in information**
 - If you have anything that you would like to specifically discuss, please e-mail dhsnpihelpdesk@nd.gov prior to our next meeting and we will discuss at our next meeting