- **What is the National Provider Identifier (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.

- **Origination of the NPI**
  It is one provision of the Administrative Simplification portion of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

- **Who must comply?**
  Entities covered by HIPAA using electronic transactions must comply (examples: providers, clearinghouses, payers).

- **Are paper transactions included in the mandate?**
  No. Paper transactions are not considered electronic transactions. However, the CMS1500 and UB forms will be changing to accommodate NPI numbers among other fields.

- **What is the compliance date?**
  CMS has mandated that beginning May 23, 2007, all health care agencies must be able to accept NPI numbers, and all health care providers sending electronic transactions must use their NPI numbers.

- **What will the NPI look like?**
  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. In other words, a provider's state, region, specialty, or other information, will not be able to be determined directly from their NPI.

- **Will a provider's NPI ever change?**
  In most cases, no. If a health care provider (for example, a physician) dies, his/her NPI will be deactivated. If a provider goes out of business, the NPI will also be deactivated. The deactivated NPI will never be issued to another health care provider. If a provider moves from one state to another, the NPI number will stay the same.

- **Does the NPI replace the Tax Identification Number (TIN)?**
  No. The NPI is not designed to replace the provider's TIN.

- **How do I get an NPI?**
  There are 3 ways to apply:
  1. By using the web-based process https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do

2. By filling out a paper NPI Application/Update form and mailing it to the Enumerator. The form is available at: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/Downloads/NPIapplication.pdf
3. By having their NPI application information (along with application information for many other health care providers) submitted on their behalf in an electronic file to the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) by an organization. This process is known as Electronic File Interchange (EFI) for bulk enumeration. For an organization to do this, it must have the provider's permission. This process is not yet available.

- **NPI Tip:**
  When applying for an NPI, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) urges entities to include their legacy identifiers, not only for Medicare but also for all payers. If reporting a Medicaid number, include the associated state name. This information will aid in the transition to the NPI.

- **What is a subpart?**
  An entity that is part of a covered organizational provider is a subpart. These entities may function independently of the covered organization and may have their own billing numbers, licensure, and or physical location (example: clinics, departments, pharmacies, DME suppliers, and nursing homes).

- **What will happen if I bill using my Medicaid number?**
  After May 23, 2007, any electronic claim not containing a provider's NPI number will be denied, and the provider will have to rebill using their NPI number.

- **What if I have more than one Medicaid Number?**
  You will only receive 1 NPI number, and that is the number you will use when billing any health plan.   Individual providers with an "entity type code" of 1 will be issued one NPI that will be a permanent identifier assigned for life, unless circumstances justify deactivation. Heath care providers that are organizations will be issued an "entity type code" of 2. Many subparts of an organization are eligible to be assigned their own NPI number.

- **When I do a Prior Authorization, do I use my NPI number or the State Medicaid number?**
  After May 23, 2007, you will be required to use your NPI number.

- **When I use the Medfax\Verify system, do I use my Medicaid Number or an NPI number?**
  After May 23, 2007, you will be required to use you NPI number if you are a provider that is required to obtain an NPI number.

- **How can I learn more about NPI?**
  Please watch the Medicaid Bulletins, your remittance advice, and the department's Web site: **http://www.nd.gov/humanservices/services/medicalserv/medicaid/provider.html**

  This federal Web site also contains useful information:
  http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/04_education.asp#TopOfPage