

## Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

### ENROLLMENT: Physician NPI Directory Scheduled At Last

#### HHS to make info available on the Internet

You finally have a date that you can expect a National Provider Identifier (NPI) directory for referring physicians- NPIs.

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** will issue the NPI information June 28 as drawn from National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) data.

-Anyone may request NPIs and other NPPES health care provider data from [the **Department of Health and Human Services**],- HHS says in a May 30 Federal Register notice. -HHS will make NPPES health care provider data available on the Internet.-

HHS won't release sensitive information such as physicians- social security numbers, tax numbers and dates of birth. But other NPPES data will be in the directory. -We believe that making these data available on the Internet is the most efficient and effective means of dissemination,- HHS says.

**Resource:** For more information go to: [www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand).

**Compliance risk:** [If you don't have your NPI now that the May 23 deadline has passed, you are courting trouble. -At this point, any covered entity that is noncompliant, and has not implemented a contingency plan, is at risk for enforcement action,- CMS warns in a message to providers.](#)

[CMS- contingency plan guidance -does not mean that providers have an extra year to get an NPI,- CMS cautions. Under CMS- plan, providers should be using their own NPIs but can still use the previous -legacy- billing numbers for referring physicians.](#)

**Try this:** [-Medicare is now asking that submitters send a small number of claims using only the NPI,- CMS instructs providers. -If no claims are rejected, the submitter can gradually increase the volume.-](#)