

Health Information Compliance Alert

INDUSTRY NEWS

HIPAA Provision Requires Some ALFs to Obtain National Provider Identifier

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** is reminding healthcare providers, including assisted living administrators, that they may be required to obtain a National Provider Identifier by May 23, 2007 under the administrative simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, if they are covered entities.

The HIPAA provisions apply to health care providers that transmit health information in an electronic form in connection with a transaction specifically defined in the rule.

It is likely that most assisted living facilities are considered health care providers under this law because its definition of healthcare is intentionally broad. Assisted living facilities that bill electronically or that participate in the Medicaid program will need to apply for an NPI. The purpose of these provisions is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the electronic transmission of health information.

To learn more about how to apply, go to: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/>.