

NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER

FAQ

Should I get an NPI?

The answer to this question is yes if (1) you provide health care and (2) you conduct standard HIPAA electronic transactions or others conduct standard HIPAA electronic transactions on your behalf.

The federal definition of health care is: care, services or supplies related to the health of an individual. It includes, but is not limited to, the following: (1) Preventive, diagnostic, rehabilitative, maintenance or palliative care, and counseling, service, assessment, or procedure with respect to the physical or mental condition, or functional status, of an individual or that affects the structure or function of the body; and (2) Sale or dispensing of a drug, device, equipment, or other item in accordance with a prescription. See 45 C.F.R. 160.103.

If you or your agency provides any of the above, then you are a health care provider.

The federal definition of a HIPAA-covered entity (covered health care provider) is...health care providers who transmit *any* health information in *electronic* form in connection with a transaction for which the Secretary of Health and Human Services has adopted a standard. (Covered health care providers must use NPIs in standard transactions by the compliance date.) See 45 C.F.R. 162.402.

If you or your agency use electronic standards or “direct data entry” (i.e. health plan web pages) for conducting HIPAA covered transactions (e.g., claims, eligibility verification, claims status), the law requires you to obtain an NPI.

APPLY TODAY at: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>.