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TO: Pharmacy Providers and Software Vendors

FROM: **Affiliated Computer Services, Inc.**

DATE: November 03, 2008

SUBJECT: **Alaska Medicaid Transition Period for Implementation of National Provider Identifier (NPI)**

Effective **May 23 2007**, Alaska Medicaid will begin the **transition to the National Provider Identifier (NPI)** requirement for *identification of the dispensing pharmacy and the prescriber on pharmacy claims*. Pharmacy Service providers are encouraged to take appropriate steps **now** to ensure a satisfactory transition to the **NPI requirement**.

For Point of Sale/Electronic Claim Submitters: **Beginning May 23, 2007, Pharmacy Service providers should begin submitting the pharmacy’s NPI in the service provider ID field** (NCPDP field number 201-B1) on pharmacy claims. When submitting claims using the NPI, Pharmacy Service providers are reminded to use the Service Provider ID qualifier of ‘01’ (NCPDP field number 202-B2).

Although the NABP/NCPDP number will remain an acceptable provider ID during the transition period, Pharmacy Services providers are encouraged to begin submitting the pharmacy’s NPI on May 23, 2007, instead of the NABP/NCPDP number. This transition period has been devised to allow Alaska Medicaid Pharmacy Service providers sufficient time to apply all necessary NPI-associated software updates to their point-of-sale (POS) systems. Please contact your software vendor immediately in order to ensure that you will be able to submit your claims utilizing the NPI.

Beginning on May 23, 2007, the NPI may be submitted for the Prescriber. If the NPI is submitted, change your Prescriber ID qualifier to ‘01’ to signify the NPI is being submitted.

A separate announcement will identify the date on which the NABP/NCPDP and the Medicaid Prescriber ID number will no longer be accepted in the service provider ID and Prescriber ID field respectively. Pharmacy claims with adjudication dates on or after May 23, 2007, **are encouraged to be submitted with NPI**.

NCPDP Fields That Require Updates:	Current Value	Transition Value	Effective Date
Service Provider ID (NCPDP field 201-B1)	NABP/NCPDP ID	NPI/NABP	May 23, 2007
Service Provider ID Qualifier (NCPDP field 202-B2)	07	01 = NPI 07 = NABP	May 23, 2007
Prescriber ID (NCPDP field 411-DB)	Medicaid ID	Medicaid ID or NPI	May 23, 2007
Prescriber ID Qualifier (NCPDP field 466-EZ)	05	01=NPI 05 = Medicaid ID	May 23, 2007

For Paper Claim (Universal Claim Form) Submitters: Alaska Medicaid will require NPI’s on paper pharmacy claims. During the transition period, the NPI or the NABP number may be used. Please be aware that the NPI Provider ID Qualifier and Prescriber ID Qualifier for the Universal Claim Form are different than that used for Point of Sale. On the Universal Claim Form, the NPI Provider ID Qualifier is “05” and NPI Prescriber ID Qualifier is “05”. Beginning May 23, 2007, the provider should begin submitting the Pharmacy’s NPI in the Provider ID field (UCF NCPDP field number 15). Although the NABP/NCPDP number will remain an acceptable provider ID during the transition period, Pharmacy Service providers are encouraged to begin submitting the pharmacy’s NPI on May 23, 2007, instead of the NABP/NCPDP number.

Also at this time the pharmacy may begin submitting the NPI for the Prescriber (UCF NCPDP field number 12) using the qualifier of “05”.

Affiliated Computer Services will be testing with select vendors and pharmacies. **If you are interested in participating in the testing, please contact Jim Wood at 907-771-7933 for scheduling and claim specific submission information.**