

## DELTA DENTAL OF OKLAHOMA

**NPI FAQ'S – ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NPI.****REMEMBER THE NPI COMPLIANCE DATE IS MAY 23, 2007****1. What is an NPI?**

As a part of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), there is a new requirement called the National Provider Identifier (NPI) which establishes one unique identifier for each health care provider and organization that renders health care. It is intended to eliminate multiple identifiers currently in use.

**2. How do I know if I am a covered entity under HIPAA?**

HIPAA regulations state that a covered entity is either:

- (1) A health plan;
- (2) A health care clearinghouse; or
- (3) A health care provider who transmits any health information in electronic form in connection with a transaction covered by HIPAA.

**3. May I still apply for an NPI if I am not a covered entity?**

Yes. All health care providers and organizations that render health care may apply for an NPI.

**4. If I am not a covered entity, will I become a covered entity if I apply for an NPI?**

No. If you do not meet the criteria listed in Question # 2, you will not become a covered entity if you apply for an NPI.

**5. How do I apply for an NPI?**

There are several methods to apply for an NPI.

- WEBSITE <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>
- TELEPHONE 1-800-465-3203
- E-MAIL [customerservice@npienumerator.com](mailto:customerservice@npienumerator.com)
- U.S. MAIL NPI Enumerator, PO Box 6059, Fargo, ND, 58108-6059

**6. There is an option at the National Plan & Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) website to click on “National Health Plan Identifier” to obtain an NHPI. Is this required?**

No. This future identifier is for health plans. There is not a specific publication date for these regulations.

### **7. When do I start placing my NPI on claims?**

We will inform you when you can start sending the NPI on claims to Delta Dental of Oklahoma.

### **8. How do I obtain the regulations for the NPI?**

The website where the regulations are located is:

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/01\\_Overview.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/01_Overview.asp)

### **9. What do I do with my NPI number when I receive it?**

Provide the official letter or copy of the e-mail to Delta Dental of Oklahoma. You may also need to provide your NPI to other insurance carriers. Send the NPI as soon as possible so that your information will be entered and tested. Send to:

Delta Dental of Oklahoma  
Attn: Chastity Corbin  
P. O. Box 54709  
Oklahoma City, Ok 73154-1709  
Fax No. (405) 607-2149  
[ccorbin@deltadentalok.org](mailto:ccorbin@deltadentalok.org)

### **10. Do I have to send my NPI to all Delta Dental companies?**

No. You only need to send your NPI to Delta Dental of Oklahoma. We will notify other Delta Dental plans.

### **11. What is a “Provider Taxonomy Code”?**

When you apply for your NPI, you will be asked to provide your ten-digit taxonomy code. These codes are not assigned to health care providers. Health care providers select the taxonomy code(s) that most closely represents their education, license, or certification. For dental providers, it is essentially an identifier that corresponds most closely to their area of specialty.

In lieu of a taxonomy code, you may provide a written description of your specialty in the space provided on the electronic or paper application and will be assigned the closest appropriate code. To facilitate your registration, the taxonomy codes applicable to dentists are listed below.

- General Practice - **1223G0001X**
- Endodontics - **1223E0200X**
- Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology - **1223P0106X**
- Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology - **1223X0008X**
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery - **1223S0112X**
- Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics - **1223X0400X**
- Pediatric Dentistry - **1223P0221X**
- Periodontics - **1223P0300X**
- Prosthodontics - **1223P0700X**

### **13. When is the deadline for application?**

Although there is no application deadline for the NPI, to assure a smooth transition, all providers are urged to apply for their NPI well in advance of the compliance date (May 23, 2007).

**14. How is my NPI determined?**

The NPI is a random ten-digit number (nine digits plus a check digit to detect keying errors) that never expires. It contains no inherent information about the provider, such as state of residence or license number. NPI's are issued by the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). The federal government is also responsible for assisting providers in completing the application and resolving problems associated with an NPI.

**15. Is there a field on claim forms for the NPI?**

Yes. There is a field on the ADA Claim Form for Type I and Type II NPI numbers. To access the form, visit the website at ADA.ORG.

**16. Will I still need to place my License Number on claims?**

Yes. The NPI does not replace the License Number.

**17. Do I need a Type II NPI?**

There are two basic types of NPIs available; individual and organizational. Individual NPIs, also known as Type 1 NPIs, are for healthcare providers, such as dentists. Organizational, or Type 2 NPIs are for use by business entities such as group practices and clinics. Organizational NPIs are needed for corporations and other business entities that want payments made to their business or corporate names or under their tax identification numbers (TIN). On a claim, the organizational NPI identifies the payee, and will usually be submitted in conjunction with an individual NPI to identify the dentist who rendered treatment.

**18. Do I need to list both of my NPI numbers (Type I and Type II) on the claim form?**

You do not need to place both NPI numbers on the claim form at this time. Currently, we will only accept Type I NPI numbers on the claim form; however, you may notify us of your Type II NPI by sending us your official documentation.