



## Use Your National Provider Identifier (NPI) to Submit Claims

The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is the standard unique identifier the CMS (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services) requires every health care provider to have and begin using by May 23, 2008. The use of the NPI is a HIPAA mandate for all covered entities. **Obtaining your NPI and using it now will make processing and paying your claims more efficient and accurate for all parties.** Obtaining and using your NPI now will mean you are not caught unprepared during the contingency implementation date on **May 24, 2008**.

### NPI Requirements During and After the Contingency Period

UniCare Health Plan of Kansas, Inc. (UniCare) recognizes the NPI contingency period between now and May 24, 2008, when the NPI officially goes into effect. UniCare has adopted contingency plans to maintain the flow of claims payments to you, while working toward compliance. We don't want you to miss a single payment because of noncompliance. Use the following guidelines for preparing and submitting your claims:

During the Contingency Period (through May 23, 2008)	Following the Contingency Period (effective May 24, 2008)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax ID</li> <li>• Billing NPI, name and address</li> <li>• Rendering NPI, name and address</li> <li>• Legacy ID, name and address</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax ID</li> <li>• Billing NPI, name and address</li> <li>• Rendering NPI, name and address</li> <li>• Taxonomy Code</li> </ul>

It is important that you bill with the most appropriate NPI number that is assigned to you. To verify your NPI number assignment, please use the National Plan and Provider Enumeration system (NPPES) website at [www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov).

In addition to the information above, we also have created the "Professional 837P Enumeration and Contractual Report". Go to [www.unicare.com](http://www.unicare.com) to read more about additional electronic 837 billing information. The State Sponsored Business version of the Report is on our **Provider Resources** page.

### Type 1 and Type 2 Providers

Health care providers may fall under one of two categories when applying for an NPI:

- Type 1 — Health care providers who are individuals, including physicians, dentists, specialists, chiropractors and sole proprietors. An individual is eligible for only one NPI.
- Type 2 — Health care providers that are organizations, including physician groups, hospitals, residential treatment centers, laboratories, and group practices, and the corporation formed when an individual incorporates as a legal entity.

### National Provider Identifier: Get it. Use it. Share it.

**Reminder: To ensure timely claim payments, you must apply for and receive your National Provider Identifier (NPI) number and register it with us as soon as possible, and no later than May 23, 2008.**

If you don't have an NPI number, visit the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand> or dial **1-800-465-3203**. For the most efficient application processing and the fastest receipt of NPIs, visit the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System website at [www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov) and apply online.

Then, register your NPI with us at <https://npi.wellpoint.com>. Don't forget, getting an NPI is free, but not having one can be costly.