



Unicare Contingency Plan for National Provider Identifier after the 05/23/07 Compliance Deadline

Unicare strives to be an industry leader in meeting the requirements of HIPAA, including NPI. As the result of extensive efforts over the last three years, Unicare will be able to accept and process NPIs for institutional, medical and dental claims as well as claim status and member status inquiries by the mandated deadline of May 23, 2007.

We recognize that many providers have experienced difficulty in obtaining NPIs, making the required changes to office management systems, and/or registering NPIs with health plans and EDI trading partners. In addition, the availability of the NPI data from the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) has been delayed. As a result, many healthcare providers and trading partners may not be ready for the May 23, 2007 compliance date, and there is increasing concern over potential processing and service disruptions in the industry.

Due to many industry challenges, Unicare is announcing a revised contingency period to help ensure a smooth transition to NPI after May 23, 2007. To help avoid business disruption, we will accept the NPI, your Unicare current provider identification number (legacy identifier), or both in electronic and paper transactions until January 25, 2008. This will help ensure we maintain current service levels to our providers, while they continue to pursue enumeration, and registration with health plans. After January 25, 2008, we will no longer accept legacy identifiers on electronic transactions. We will send a reminder notification 60 days in advance of that date.

Unicare is committed to making this contingency period as easy as possible for providers. To assist providers who are having difficulty meeting the NPI compliance date of May 23, 2007, we will work with you and your contracted vendors to maintain current business operations and service levels during this transition period while supporting your efforts to comply with the requirements of HIPAA's NPI Rule.

It is essential that we all move to using the NPI on electronic and paper transactions as quickly as possible. Successful implementation of HIPAA standards should reduce costs and administrative burdens for the entire healthcare industry and WellPoint is committed to assisting you with that effort.

If you have not already done so, please register your NPI(s) on our NPI Registration Website located at <https://npi.wellpoint.com>. This web site also includes instructions for our bulk submission process for provider offices and institutions with many NPIs. If you have already registered your NPI, thank you.