



## **NCPPO HIPAA NPI Readiness Statement:**

The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a component of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). The NPI is a 10-digit single provider identification number the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) will assign through the National Plan and Provider Enumerator System (NPPES) to uniquely identify a physician, other health care professional or institution within specified electronic HIPAA transactions. It is intended to improve the efficiency of the health care system and reduce fraud and abuse. Ultimately, the NPI will replace all existing identification numbers including the Medicare, Medicaid, Unique Physician Identification Number (UPIN) and plan provider identification numbers.

NCPPO has reviewed the requirements of the NPI and is in the process of implementing our strategy to integrate the NPI into our information systems (e.g., claims adjudication, financial, provider databases, etc.). Effective October 1, 2006, as long as the NPI number is accompanied with the provider's current NCPPO provider identification number, NCPPO will have the capability to accept the 10-digit NPI on electronic claims and CMS1500 (08/05) and UB-04 paper claim forms transactions. We expect to achieve compliance with the NPI requirements on or before the May 23, 2007 compliance date, at which time, only the NPI will be accepted from NPI-eligible providers. The requirement of the NPI in electronic transactions only applies to electronic transactions subject to the HIPAA requirements as set forth in the HIPAA Transactions and Code Sets Standards. For paper claims forms transactions, we strongly encourage the use of the NPI on the CMS 1500 form (version 08/05) and UB-04 claim forms to minimize any disruption to claims payment.

After receiving their NPI(s), providers are required to complete our online submission form, at <https://npi.wellpoint.com>, to register their NPI. Registration will help to ensure our internal system accurately reflects providers' NPI information in order to secure a seamless conversion to NPI and minimize potential payment disruptions.

To help meet the compliance efforts of our business partners, we've expanded our newsletters and provider Web sites to include the most up-to-date information about the NPI implementation, specific to NCPPO. In addition, NCPPO will continue to relay information from CMS regarding NPI and NPPES. Visit us at [www.ncppo.com](http://www.ncppo.com) for more details.