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## BULLETIN 07-03

TO: ALL NEW JERSEY HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES; HOSPITAL SERVICE CORPORATIONS; MEDICAL SERVICE **CORPORATIONS:** HEALTH SERVICE **CORPORATIONS;** HEALTH MAINTENANCE **ORGANIZATIONS:** DENTAL SERVICE CORPORATIONS; DENTAL PLAN ORGANIZATIONS; PRESCRIPTION SERVICE **ORGANIZATIONS:** PREPAID ORGANIZED DELIVERY SYSTEMS; THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATORS; THIRD PARTY BILLERS AND OTHER **INTERESTED PARTIES** 

## FROM: STEVEN M. GOLDMAN, COMMISSIONER

## RE: NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER (NPI) – NEW JERSEY COMPREHENSIVE RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS TO NPI ENUMERATION

On August 14, 2006, the Department issued Bulletin No. 06-19 explaining the importance of early acquisition and use of the new NPI numbers by all providers. On September 28, 2006, the Department's HIPAA/HINT Task Force hosted a training seminar for providers, payers, vendors, trade associations and interested parties in which acquisition, enumeration and early use of NPIs was encouraged.

As noted throughout this process, certain choices and declarations must be made during the process of obtaining an NPI number from the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). This enumeration process relates to the provider's business structure; the taxonomy code of the provider; location information and some payment data. The choices made during the enumeration process will have a direct impact on the timely and proper payment of medical claims. Also, the applicable federal rules require that NPIs be used on all standard HIPAA electronic transactions by May 23, 2007. Otherwise claims, referrals and related transactions may be rejected.

Furthermore, it is essential that payers and providers exchange and use NPIs prior to the May 23, 2007 deadline. This will permit all necessary parties to develop crosswalks between the new NPI numbers and the old legacy numbers. These crosswalks will help to ensure that there is no failure to pay claims and honor referrals on and after the deadline. Thus, this Department together with the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, the National Plan/Provider Enumeration System and many other national and state organizations are encouraging all concerned parties to obtain and use NPIs together with their legacy numbers as soon as possible.

Since the NPI seminar, the DOBI Task Force has sponsored numerous telephone conferences for health plans, payers, professional groups/individual providers, and institutional providers/facilities to develop an industry-wide consensus of recommendations for providers to use during the NPI enumeration process described above. These recommendations represent suggestions and/or guidelines that providers may consider. Throughout, the Task force has consulted with all sectors of the health care industry, national experts, group and individual providers, payers, health care information clearinghouses, third party billers and many others. The attached recommendations and enumeration solutions were submitted to the NJDOBI HIPAA/HINT Task Force by working groups and are considered to be best practices for providers when enumerating.

The Task Force therefore encourages all recipients of this Bulletin to share this information with all providers with whom they have a business relationship and to urge such providers to endeavor to follow these recommendations, which will yield a common and consistent solution to New Jersey NPI enumeration decisions. It should also be noted that the attached recommended solutions are also being adopted by NJSHORE, the New Jersey Strategic National Implementation Organization, for the orderly deployment and use of the HIPAA transaction and code sets.

Questions and comments regarding this bulletin may be directed to William J. O'Byrne by fax at 609-292-5337 or e-mail at <u>wobyrne@dobi.state.nj.us</u>. Please specify "NPI recommended solutions." A copy of this bulletin and the recommendations attached hereto will be posted at DOBI's website at <u>www.state.nj.us/dobi/legsregs.htm</u>.

<u>1/25/07</u> Date /s/ Steven M. Goldman Steven M. Goldman Commissioner

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