

## **Report from the NJ DOBI Task Force NPI Working Groups**

Three NPI Work Groups were successfully formed after the 9/28/2006 NPI Awareness Conference sponsored by NJ Department of Banking & Insurance. These groups were:

1. Health Plans and Payers
2. Professional Groups and individuals
3. Institutions

The missions of the groups were:

1. Document the impact scenarios/issues with NPI from each group's perspective.
2. Document recommended solutions for each of the issues.
3. Present the "best choice" recommendations for each of the issues to the NJ Department of Banking & Insurance to go forward as the Department's recommendations for NPI.

Facilitators of the groups were:

- Health Plans/Payers (including clearinghouses, software vendors, EFI-OI, communications, collections/dissemination)  
Anne Quigg, Horizon BCBSNJ, Anne\_Quigg@horizonblue.com  
Jeanette Kania, Horizon BCBSNJ, Jeanette\_Kania@Horizon-BCBSNJ.com
- Institutional Providers/Facilities, Other Professionals (including Ancillary Providers, DMEs)  
Shari Back, St. Barnabas Health Care System, sback@sbhcs.com
- Professional Groups  
Seth Masters, Gaffey + Associates, smasters@gemsedi.com

At a high level, the following recommendations were agreed upon:

- Providers should notify health plans and payers, as well as others they do business with, of their NPIs. Notification should include the Legacy numbers that are being replaced by the NPIs, and other differentiating factors such as specialty/taxonomy and location (including zip code +4).
- Subpart enumeration is preferred in most cases and should align with the current billing lines of a provider (i.e., if there are different payments due to specialty or location these should be preserved via NPI).
- In light of the lack of NPPES dissemination notice for NPIs, a repository or secure shared database should be created. In addition, NPI should become part of the credentialing/re-credentialing criteria and should be added to prescription pads, referral notices, directories, and other documents.
- NPI should be used on paper transactions also.
- Additional awareness communication is needed at all levels—Professionals, Institutions, Payers, Vendors. Communication will also be needed between organizations for transitioning and testing.