

TO: All Providers
FROM: CareFirst of Maryland, Inc.
SUBJECT: Clarification Regarding National Provider Identifier (NPI)
DATE: June 16, 2005

Between May 23, 2005 and January 2, 2006 CMS claims processing systems will accept an existing legacy Medicare number and reject, as unprocessable, any claim that includes only an NPI.

Beginning January 3, 2006, and through October 1, 2006, CMS systems will accept an existing legacy Medicare number **or** an NPI as long as it is accompanied by an existing legacy Medicare number.

Beginning October 2, 2006, and through May 22, 2007, CMS systems will accept an existing legacy Medicare number **and/or** an NPI. This will allow for 6-7 months of provider testing before only an NPI will be accepted by the Medicare Program on May 23, 2007.

Beginning May 23, 2007 CMS systems will **only** accept an NPI.

To apply for an NPI, visit: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> on the CMS website. To request a paper application, call 1-800-465-3203.

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