National Provider Identifier (NPI)
Frequently Asked Questions

The following information will address common questions and concerns of CHDP/Medi-Cal providers. Time is running out and only a few weeks remain to apply for an NPI and register the number with Medi-Cal. Additional questions can also be found on the Medi-Cal Web page at: www.medi-cal.ca.gov

What is a National Provider Identifier (NPI)?
NPI – a national standard unique health identifier for health care providers. As a part of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), it mandated the adoption of standard unique identifiers for health care providers, as well as the adoption of standard unique identifiers for health plans. The purpose of these provisions is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the electronic transmission of health information.

Why does a health care provider or health plan need to get an NPI and register it with Medi-Cal?
It is very important to get an NPI and REGISTER it with Medi-Cal by May 23, 2007 to avoid payment interruptions.

What is the "dual-use" period?
To maintain payment accuracy and timely payment to Medi-Cal providers, the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) is taking a preliminary step toward NPI compliance. Medi-Cal is referring to this as a “dual-use” period. The dual-use period begins on May 23, 2007 and goes to November 25, 2007.

The dual-use period encourages submission of an NPI along with the Medi-Cal provider number. Use of the Medi-Cal provider number is mandatory. Claims submitted without a Medi-Cal provider number prior to November 26, 2007 will NOT be accepted for processing. (For exceptions, see the “NPI” area of the Medi-Cal Web site: http://www.medi-cal.ca.gov/).

Claims submitted with only an NPI between May 23, 2007 and November 25, 2007 will not be processed. CDHS plans to implement NPI system changes allowing only an NPI on November 26, 2007. If only a Medi-Cal number is submitted after November 25, 2007, the claim will not be accepted for processing.

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The 9-digit Medi-Cal number is written in the space provided on the PM 160 as usual. The NPI number will also be written on the PM 160.

How does a health care provider apply for an NPI?

The National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) has a Web site for online application. At the bottom of the web page, contact information is listed: phone numbers, e-mail address, and regular mailing address. [https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do](https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do) (click on NPI) OR [http://www.medi-cal.ca.gov/](http://www.medi-cal.ca.gov/) (click on NPI updated in the left column; the click on Applying for NPI in the right column)

How does a health plan APPLY for an NPlanID?

A health plan will use the same address as a provider to get an NPI. [https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do](https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do) (click on National Health Plan Identifier – NPlanID)

What is a taxonomy code and how does a provider acquire one?

Taxonomy Code – A unique alphanumeric code, ten characters in length that is used to identify a provider’s specialty or specialities. Taxonomy codes are needed BEFORE you begin to register your NPI with Medi-Cal. [http://www.wpc-edi.com/codes/taxonomy](http://www.wpc-edi.com/codes/taxonomy)

How does a health care provider or health plan REGISTER their NPI with Medi-Cal by May 23, 2007?


What are the Steps for Registering an NPI?

1. Apply for an NPI with NPPES.
2. Register the NPI with Medi-Cal/CHDP.
   a. In order to register, a provider must have the following before you start the process:
      • Current Medi-Cal/CHDP provider number.
      • PIN (Provider Identification Number) OR last 4 digits of SSN (Social Security Number) OR last 4 digits of TIN (Tax Identification Number).
      • The NPI assigned by the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES).
      • The taxonomy code(s) the provider listed on the NPI application to NPPES.
      • The Medicare NPIs if the provider has Medicare provider numbers.
      • The Non-Physician Medical Practitioner (NMP) NPIs if the provider has NMPs.

The provider will also have the opportunity to authorize the updating of their existing agreements with the new NPI information.

Are there state sponsored trainings I can attend?

Yes –
1. Pasadena June 12-14
2. Ventura July 17-19
3. Santa Rosa July 26-27

For additional questions regarding NPI, contact the Telephone Service Center (TSC) at 1-800-541-5555, select language preference (option 11 for English; option 12 for Spanish), select option 16 from the main menu, then select option 18 from the sub menu.
CHDP & School Physicals

CHDP would like to remind all providers to do all physicals, including the school entry physical, according to the CHDP periodicity table. The exception to this states, if the time interval is two years until the next exam is due, a child can obtain a CHDP exam after only one year interval, if it is required for school entry. This should be documented on the PM 160 and the child can be entered through Gateway with a “Medically Necessary Interperiodic Health Assessment” (MNIHA – Code 3).

Perform all necessary immunizations and a full, comprehensive health screening at each CHDP visit, especially the school entry visit including an Oral Health Exam referral (see Ah to Oral Health Assessment).

Administrative problems sometimes occur for schools when children are in a preschool program that requires an exam in late summer, and then the child is not yet eligible for a kindergarten exam in the spring. When scheduling 4 or 5 year olds for an exam, be aware of this potential scheduling problem and schedule the physical exam in a time frame that is acceptable to the schools. CHDP is only able to reimburse for one exam a year.

Say Ah to Oral Health Assessments

A new California law, Education Code Section 49452.8, requires an oral health assessment for kindergarteners and first-time school entry first graders by May 31st. The law specifies that this oral health assessment must be performed by a licensed dentist or other licensed or registered dental health professional.

A dental exam done at a dental visit in the past 12 months will also satisfy the requirement.

A recent California Oral Health Survey conducted by the Dental Health Foundation found that 62.1 percent of central valley kindergartners had dental caries so the new law draws needed attention to the oral health of Kern County students who suffer pain and the loss of valuable school time.

The Treatment Program provides access for low-income, uninsured children to an oral health assessment and needed dental care with the goal of keeping children healthy and ready to learn. For referrals or questions, contact the Treatment Program-Dental Component at (661) 868-0375 or toll free 1 (800) 974-2717 extension 80375.

Say Ah to Oral Health Assessments

Sun

Protect yourself and your child's skin from harmful UV rays.

Sunburns & tanning greatly increase skin cancer risk.

A child's skin is especially vulnerable to UV rays.

1 in 5 people get skin cancer.

Source: www.avoidskincancer.org

Paid for by funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through a program of the Public Health Institute

Reduce sun exposure from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
**CHDP Success Story:**
Five month old J. M. was seen at Joy Kimpo Family Medical Center on 6-14-06 for CHDP exam. He was diagnosed with a heart murmur and referred to Children’s Hospital of Central California (CHCC) in Madera. He is one of premature twins in a family of five children. Numerous appointments were missed and mother always had an excuse why she could not keep follow-up appointments. PHA GG contacted the mother and explained the importance of follow-up care on heart murmurs and encouraged the mother to be more active in seeking care for her child. The mother called the clinic for another referral and the doctor is referring again to CHCC. The doctor is also submitting a request for authorization to Kern Family Health care for authorization to CHCC. The mother now understands the importance of follow-up and is complying with doctors’ appointments and following through.

**KATCH Success Story:**
The Kern Access to Children’s Health (KATCH) program assists a variety of people in difficult situations. Some clients face several barriers in the application process, and it may take months before the client is granted health insurance.

In February, 2006, a family with two children, a boy 18 months and a girl 11 years old applied for Medi-Cal and were denied services due to income. The son was born prematurely and as a result has developmental disabilities. Therefore, having health insurance was extremely important and necessary for the family.

The family returned several times between March and June, 2006, trying to complete the application process by having all the correct paperwork to verify their eligibility for Healthy Families. In June, 2006, the California Children Services (CCS) and KATCH programs could not reach the family for additional information needed. Consequently, the case was closed.

Again on December 6 and 20, 2006, AG, PHA with the KATCH Program assisted the client with the Healthy Families (HF) application. On December 18th, the client called to find out the status of application and was told it was still processing. On December 20, the client came in to KATCH to apply for Medi-Cal, because CCS was requesting it in order for the son to continue receiving their services. On January 10, 2007, the client received notice that still more additional paperwork was needed to complete the process. With the help of KATCH staff, the information was faxed to the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Finally on January 25, 2007, the client called the PHA to inform her that the children were granted Healthy Families and had received their benefit cards. This case was successful because of the collaboration between the KATCH program staff, CCS and DHS. It was also a case that expanded over the period of almost one year. If it would not have been for the constant and repeated phone calls to Healthy Families, the family would not have been granted health insurance.

**Immunization News**
This spring, the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program has transitioned to a centralized national vaccine inventory and distribution system with McKesson Specialty, Ltd. The California DHS Immunization Branch recently sent a letter to VFC clinics and providers with an explanation of the change and new vaccine ordering forms. If you have any questions, please contact your VFC representative or customer service.

You may also call the KCDPH Immunization Section at (661) 868-0510.

You may bill CHDP for the administration of Gardasil™, the Human Papilloma Virus vaccine:

<table>
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<th>Vaccine</th>
<th>Code</th>
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