



PROVIDER NOTICE

NPI Contingency Plan

Dear Health Plus Participating Provider:

At Health Plus, we're proud of our extensive provider network serving the five boroughs and Nassau County. Our focus is on streamlining administrative processes so you can focus on what's important - caring for our members.

Health Plus has worked hard to keep providers abreast of changes in HIPAA regulations. We have been working to re-configure our information systems and processes to accommodate the mandated requirement that all HIPAA covered entities use a National Provider Identifier (NPI) as an identifier for all transactions instead of many proprietary numbers that providers currently have for each payer. The deadline that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) had set for compliance with the mandate was May 23, 2007. CMS has announced that they will not impose penalties for 12 months (May 23, 2008), for all entities displaying good faith efforts to ensure NPI compliance.

At Health Plus, we understand that throughout the healthcare industry there are challenges associated with the implementation of the NPI number. Because of these challenges, Health Plus will accept and process legacy provider IDs (i.e. Health Plus provider identification number) in HIPAA standard transactions until further notice, **but not later than May 23, 2008**. Health Plus expects to begin accepting "Dual Submissions" in the fourth quarter of 2007. When Health Plus is ready to take "Dual Submissions", a notice will be sent to participating providers and will be posted on the Health Plus website www.healthplus-ny.org.

Health Plus's contingency plan allocates time for testing and communication with our providers. Our contingency plan allows all parties to work in good faith towards achieving compliance with the mandated NPI requirements.

HIPAA regulations require the payee to have an NPI on all 835 electronic remittance advices. Health Plus will only remit to Provider Groups who have supplied us with their NPI number. If your Group is currently receiving payments and you wish to continue in this manner, please ensure that you submit this NPI to our Provider Relations department. Additionally all claims that remit to the Group should have the Group's NPI number at the billing level.

Health Plus will use the Attending Provider information, including the NPI at the claim level to adjudicate all Outpatient Institutional Clinic Claims. All other 837 I claims will be processed using the NPI and address of the Facility at the claim level.

In cases where the Tax ID, NPI and Service Address on a claim do not allow us to identify a provider in our system, we will use the Taxonomy Codes as an additional data element. This will assist us in cases where a provider has multiple specialties and practices at a single address. For those providers who submit claims for more than one specialty, you must include the applicable taxonomy code on all claims.

If you have not already submitted your NPI to Health Plus, please do so as soon as possible. Please give a copy of your confirmation sheet to your Provider Relations Associate or fax it to our secure Health Plus NPI fax line at **(718) 233-3523**.

If you have questions about how to obtain your NPI, please call the *NPI Enumerator Call Center* at: **(800) 465-3203**. Questions about submitting your NPI information to Health Plus should be directed to the *Health Plus Provider Care Center* at: **(800) 450-8753**.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.