



You're NPI Ready, But is Your Practice Management System?

For those of you who have applied for NPIs, you already know how quick and easy it is to complete the process. While you can feel good about being among the ranks of the enumerated, you might not be done with NPI preparations just yet. Have you checked to be sure your practice management system is as NPI-ready as you?

After the 20 minutes it takes to apply for an NPI, it is estimated that 120 more days are needed for you to prepare to use and share your NPI(s). Much of the work involves getting billing systems in order, which should include a call to your practice management vendor. Ask if your system can support the transmission of NPI compliant claims. If not, system upgrades might be in order.

If you submit claims to a clearinghouse, make arrangements with them to be sure that the claims they submit on your behalf are NPI compliant. All should be prepared to handle NPIs in claims, and some may even have systems in place to make the conversion from legacy identifiers to your new NPI for you.

The May 23rd compliance date is nearing, so be sure to give your office enough time to make the necessary updates or upgrades. Delays in applying for and preparing to use your NPI can put your cash flow at risk. To find out more information about NPI compliance, visit the official government NPI Web site at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/>