

# UMG - HEALTH CARE HERALD

News From ProMed Health Care Administrators & Upland Medical Group  
Fall 2006

## President's Message

By Jeerreddi A. Prasad, M.D., President

Greetings!

Hard to believe summer is over. I have a happy occasion to share with you all. My daughter got married this summer!!! I extend a warm welcome to all the new young providers.

Our network continues to be stable. Health care coverage trend continues to change. Other non-HMO products are gaining ground. As always, market and consumers dictate the trend. There will be stabilization of this trend in the future. Of course, I don't have the crystal ball to tell you when. Best course for the organization is to be prepared to keep our options open.

The IPA continues to work with providers to enhance their satisfaction

I thank all of you for continued support.

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## Provider Services

By: Dawn Tumser, Provider Relations Supervisor

### HEALTH PLAN UPDATES

Health Net and Blue Shield have provided a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) with answers to help you learn about the steps Health Net and Blue Shield have in place for the National Provider Identifier (NPI). Please see attached (FAQ's).

### HEALTH EDUCATION

ProMed's contracted HMO's make available to your members a wide variety of health education materials in mandated state health topics that have been reviewed for cultural sensitivity, appropriate reading level, and medical accuracy.

Materials are available in the following languages: English, Spanish, Armenian, Chinese, Farsi, Khmer, Vietnamese, Russian, and Korean.

Topics include:

- Birth Control Options
- Controlling High Blood Pressure
- Controlling your Cholesterol
- How to Breastfeed
- How to Prevent the Spread of Tuberculosis
- Nutrition During Pregnancy
- What are STDs?
- What is Asthma?
- What is Prenatal Care?
- What is Type 2 Diabetes?

If you would like to order copies of these Health Education Topics, please contact Dawn Tumser at (909) 932-1045 Ext. 1005.

People tell me, "Gee, you look good." There are three ages of man: youth, middle age and "Gee, you look good."

Red Skelton (1913 – 1997)  
Comedian

please write to me with your concerns via Certified Mail. Thank you for your continued support and participation.

## New Plastic Reconstructive Specialist - September 27, 2006

Pomona Valley Medical Group is pleased announce the addition of a Plastic surgeon to our network specialist panel:

*Dr Deudas "Dev" Wali*  
155 West Willow St  
Pomona, CA 91767  
Phone: 909 865 2626  
Fax: 909 865 2010

Head and Neck	Skin Cancer; Facial Trauma; Congenital anomalies; Eyelid reconstruction; Moh's defects, Nasal surgery
Breast	Breast cancer reconstruction; Reduction; gynecomastia
Lower Extremities	Open fracture coverage flaps; ulcers; acute/ chronic wounds
Abdomen	Abdomen wall reconstruction; hernias
Upper Extremity	Hand surgery; nerve injuries; microsurgery
General	Skin grafts; debridements; wound care/ evaluations

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for your continued cooperation

If, every day, I date to remember that I am here on loan, that this house, this hillside, these minutes, are all leased to me, not given, I will never despair. Despair is for those who expect to live forever. I no longer do.

Erica Jong  
Writer

If you want an accounting of your worth, count your friends.

MERRY BROWNE  
Writer

## Save This Date . . . . .

*ProMed Health Care Administrators*

*will be hosting their 2006 Holiday Party on*

*Saturday, December 2, 2006*

*at the Sheraton Fairplex in Pomona*

*(same place as last year).*

*More information will be contained in your invitation at a later date.*

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, author of the famous Sherlock Holmes stories, once hailed a cab in Paris. He threw his handbag inside and climbed in after it, but before he could say a word, the driver said, "Where to, Mr. Conan Doyle?"

"You recognize me?" said the author in surprise. "Not really. I've never seen you or a picture of you."  
"Then how do you know I'm Conan Doyle?"

"Well," said the driver, "I read in the newspapers that you were on vacation in the south of France; I noticed you getting off a train that came from Marseilles; I see you have the kind of tan that bespeaks a week or more in the sun; from the ink spot on our right middle finger, I deduce you are a writer; you have the keen look of a medical man, and the cut of clothes of an Englishman. Putting it all together, I felt you must surely be Conan Doyle, the creator of the great detective, Sherlock Holmes."

Conan Doyle burst out, "But you are yourself the equal of Sherlock Holmes since you recognized me from all these small observations."

"There is," said the driver, "one additional fact."  
"And that is?"  
Your name is lettered on your handbag."

ISAAC ASIMOV  
*Isaac Asimov's Treasure of Humor*  
Houghton Mifflin Company



National Provider Identifier (NPI)

Q: What is NPI?

A: NPI, the acronym for National Provider Identifier, is a unique identifier officially adopted to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act's (HIPAA's) mandate that health care providers replace any health plan identifiers currently used for HIPAA-related electronic transactions with a unique identifier. This unique identifier is intended to simplify the administration of certain health care information and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of standard electronic HIPAA transactions.

Q: What are HIPAA transactions?

A: At this time, HIPAA mandates that nine American Standards Institute (ANSI) transactions be used for specific electronic health care transactions:

270 Eligibility Inquiry	271 Eligibility Response	276 Claim Status Inquiry
277 Claim Status Response	278 Referral and Prior Authorization	820 Premium Payment
837 Claim/Encounters	835 Remittance Advice	834 Enrollment

Q: Will Health Net begin supporting HIPAA 270 and 271 eligibility transactions?

A: Health Net is implementing support for HIPAA 270 and 271 eligibility transactions to support NPI requirements. Providers who would like to begin using this transaction with Health Net in lieu of existing proprietary transactions should contact their provider network administrator.

Q: When must you start using NPIs in conjunction with standard transactions?

A: Most HIPAA-covered entities — health plans, health care clearinghouses and health care providers — are required to use the NPI in all HIPAA transactions by May 23, 2007 (small health plans have until May 21, 2008).

Q: How do I know if I need to obtain an NPI?

A: All health care providers or organizations that complete electronic transactions must obtain an NPI to identify themselves in HIPAA-standard transactions. These providers include:

- Physicians and other practitioners, including, but not limited to, dentists, physician assistants, chiropractors, nurses, licensed social workers, physical therapists, optometrists, and clinical psychologists
- Medical groups
- Comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities
- Hospitals, nursing homes and other institutional providers
- Pharmacies, including online pharmacies and pharmacists
- Suppliers of durable medical equipment (DME)
- Employer groups for 834 Enrollment transactions

Q: Are any providers not required to obtain an NPI?

A: Any entity that does not meet the definition of a "health care provider" at 45 CFR 160.103, which includes billing services, value-added networks, re-pricers, health care clearinghouses, non-emergency transportation services, and others, is not required to obtain an NPI.



Health Net

## Frequently Asked Questions Preparing For NPI and Revised Paper Claim Forms

Q: Is Health Net storing the address used with the NPI or is Health Net only using addresses for providers currently stored in system?

A: Address information received from external sources as part of NPI demographic data is being stored. Address information received on claims is being stored as received. However, Health Net does not anticipate this address data replacing or updating address information currently maintained internally in our provider database.

Q: Will Health Net be doing any internal edits on NPIs?

A: At this time, Health Net does not anticipate performing any automated internal edits on NPIs. It is possible that Health Net may contact a provider for direction on new or improperly formatted NPIs.

Q: Where can I learn more about NPI?

A: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Web page at [www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand) provides up-to-date information concerning NPI. You may also contact the NPI Enumerator directly by telephone at (800) 465-3203 or TTY (800) 692-2326, or by emailing [customerservice@npienumerator.com](mailto:customerservice@npienumerator.com).

Additional questions about the use of, planning for or implementing NPI can be found on the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) Web site at [www.wedi.org](http://www.wedi.org).

### Revised Paper Claim Forms

Q: What are the major changes to the new paper claim forms?

A: The major changes to the new CMS 1500 and UB 04 forms is the addition of the NPI fields.

Q: When will Health Net begin accepting the new CMS 1500 professional health care claim form?

A: Health Net is accepting the new CMS 1500 form (designated with "08/05" in the lower right-hand corner) beginning October 1, 2006.

Q: When will Health Net begin accepting the use of the UB 04 institutional claim form?

A: Health plans must be ready to receive the new UB 04, which is replacing the UB 92, on March 1, 2007; however, the National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC) issued a transition period for the UB 04 from March 1, 2007 through May 23, 2007.

Q: Will Health Net continue to accept use of the older version of the CMS 1500 form after October 1, 2006?

A: Providers are encouraged to submit their claims using the new CMS 1500 form; however, Health Net will continue to accept claims submitted using the older version of the CMS 1500 form (designated with a "12/90" in the lower-right hand corner).

Q: Where can I find additional information about the new forms?

A: Information regarding the revised version of the CMS 1500 can be found on the National Uniform Claim Committee Web site at [www.nucc.org](http://www.nucc.org). Information regarding the UB 04 can be found on the NUBC Web site at [www.nubc.org](http://www.nubc.org).

information on EDI requirements, please contact our eBusiness Help Desk at (800) 480-1221, or reference the *Blue Shield of California HIPAA Transaction Standard Companion Guide* located on Provider Connection at mylifepath.com. See question 6 for additional information on use of Type-1 and Type-2 NPI.

**15. How should I re-bill claims originally submitted prior to May 23, 2007?**

On or after the mandatory May 23, 2007, Compliance Date, you should submit original or corrected claims using the updated CMS 1500 or UB-04 claims forms. All electronic transactions after the Compliance Date must also comply with the NPI mandate by utilizing NPI and TIN as the primary identifiers, regardless of the service date or previous submissions.

**16. What is the most important thing I should know about Blue Shield and NPI right now?**

During the current transition period, both Blue Shield and our providers are preparing for the NPI data changes and claim form updates. To ensure continued ease of doing business with Blue Shield, we are asking providers to:

- Obtain your NPI early to avoid potential delays in receiving your NPI assignment. Absence of NPI after Compliance Date creates the potential to interrupt your ability to submit electronic transactions.
- Register your NPI with us, and let us know the relationships that exist between your Blue Shield PINs and NPI so we may continue to accurately identify you in transaction processing, and accurately report your year-end earnings.
- Please remember Blue Shield is attempting to capture NPI information on nearly 100,000 providers. Early registration of your NPI will assure sufficient time to accurately document your NPI-to-PIN relationships.

**Important Resources**

Apply for NPI at	<a href="https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov">https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov</a> (800) 465-3203
Fax your NPI Assignment information to Blue Shield	(916) 350-8860, Attention: NPI Project
New Form Information	<a href="http://www.nucc.org">www.nucc.org</a> (CMS 1500 Form) <a href="http://www.nubc.org/new.html">www.nubc.org/new.html</a> (UB04 Form)
Provider Liaison (Provider file information)	(800) 258-3091
Blue Shield eBusiness Help Desk (NPI Help)	(800) 480-1221