



Nonprofit corporations and independent licensees
of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

July 7, 2009

Subject: Blues schedule end of NPI contingency for professional claims

Dear professional providers and submitters:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Care Network and the Federal Employee Program will conclude our National Provider Identifier contingency period for professional claims Sept. 30, 2009. Over the past year, we've worked with you to assist with transitioning to NPI-only. Since many professional providers have successfully transitioned to NPI only reporting for BCBSM, BCN and FEP professional electronic claims, there is no longer a need for the dual acceptance period. We strongly urge you to switch to NPI-only as soon as possible, to avoid payment delay or rejections. Making the switch too close to the deadline could jeopardize our ability to assist you in a timely manner if you have issues with your NPI.

Electronic professional claims received on or after Sept. 30 must contain only NPIs in all applicable provider identifier elements. Claims received after that date with legacy identifiers will be rejected with a P536 front-end rejection. Claims that reject-edit should be corrected and resubmitted electronically. Additionally, all professional claims submitted to the BCBSM clearinghouse should no longer contain non-NPI provider identifiers such as provider codes, state license numbers and UPINs. Providers currently receiving NPI informational edits should contact the EDI Helpdesk to resolve them as soon as possible.

If you are presently submitting NPI and legacy identifiers on your electronic claims, contact your software vendor or clearinghouse about how to change to report only your NPI.

When you are ready to submit NPI-only claims, you should send us a small file and then review your edit reports. This will allow you to see where corrections are needed and avoid payment delay.

To continue receiving your 835 remittance without disruption, please be sure that your EDI provider authorizations and unique receiver IDs have been updated to include your NPI. Beginning Sept. 30, 2009, 835 remittances (electronic vouchers) will only route based on the NPI and unique receiver IDs registered with us. Failure to register your NPI with us will cause 835 remittance file suspension and suspended files will not be recreated.

For more information about NPI, visit our Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan HIPAA EDI Companion Document at bcbsm.com/pdf/systems_resources_prof_837_835.pdf.

If you have questions about this information, please contact the EDI Helpdesk at 800-542-0945, option 5.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John Bialowicz in black ink.

John Bialowicz
Manager, ETP Contracting and Relations
e-Business Interchange Group

Handwritten signature of Wanda Brideau in black ink.

Wanda Brideau
Manager, ETP Service and Support
e-Business Interchange Group