

National Provider Identifier – NPI

The federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires that providers obtain an NPI if claims are submitted electronically, or if eligibility or claim status will be obtained online:

- An NPI is a random 10-digit number, unique to either a provider, or an entity
- There is no expiration date on an NPI, and it does not change over time
- The NPI is used in addition to a Tax ID number and state license numbers

Types of NPI Numbers

There are two types of NPI numbers available, depending upon the needs of the practice:

- Type 1 NPI is an individual NPI, assigned to a specific provider by name
- Type 2 NPI is a business/entity identifier, assigned to a practice/corporation name

What type of NPI do you need?

- Solo practitioners need only a Type 1 NPI if submitting as an unincorporated individual
- Solo practitioners submitting with the practice name should obtain a Type 2 NPI
- Multiple provider practices should have a Type 1 for each individual provider, and a Type 2 for the incorporated practice

What about Claims?

- The TREATING section of the claim always reflects an individual provider, their Type 1 NPI and license number
- The BILLING section of the claim can reflect either:
 - An individual provider, their Type 1 NPI, license number and the Tax ID
 - The practice name, Type 2 NPI and the Tax ID

Resources

- To apply for an NPI, or get more information: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/#/>
- http://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Member%20Center/Files/ada_dental_claim_form_completion_instructions_2012.aspx
- <https://www.deltadentalins.com/dentists/guidance/npi.html>