

RELEASE OF NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER (NPI) INFORMATION

From Information from the American Psychological Association
Practice Organization

July 3, 2007

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently published a notice in the Federal Register indicating that the agency plans to make some of the information that providers submitted in their National Provider Identifier (NPI) application available to the public. The initial date for release was June 28, but that has been changed to August 1, 2007. CMS believes it has an obligation under the Freedom of Information Act to make this information publicly accessible. However, this is the first time in the very long NPI process that CMS' intention to make information publicly available in this manner has been made known.

CMS has announced that practitioners have to change/update their NPI information by July 16, 2007 in order for the changes/updates to be included in the August 1st public release of the information.

The information CMS plans to make available includes: your NPI number, your name(s); your business location address, fax and phone; your business mailing address, fax and phone; your taxonomy code(s); your other provider identifier(s); your gender; the date you obtained your NPI; the date you last updated your NPI; and your license number. Some of this information is considered "optional" by CMS. **You may exclude any "optional information" (see list below) from your completed NPI application.**

CMS WILL NOT RELEASE certain private information such as Social Security Number (SSN), Tax Identification Numbers, date of birth, or e-mail addresses. CMS does not plan to release to the public any information that is not contained in the NPI application.

CMS has posted on its Web site a list of the NPI information to be disclosed, as well as information considered "optional". You may find the list online at www.cms.hhs.gov/nationalprovidentstand/, clicking on "Data Dissemination" on the left hand side of the page, and then clicking on "Information on FOIA-Disclosable Data Elements in NPPES" in the "Downloads" section near the bottom of the page.

The items below as listed on the NPI application are the ones considered "optional" at this time:

- Other last, first and middle name (if you listed more than one name)
- Prefix, suffix, and credential

- Fax and phone numbers in the business mailing address category
- Fax number in the business location category
- All but one taxonomy code
- Other provider identifiers

You are encouraged to review the information you submitted on your NPI application to make sure it is accurate. And if you do this by July 16 you will have the opportunity to remove information from your NPI application that CMS considers optional.

For fuller information from APAPO on removal, what is “optional”, taxonomy codes, etc. regarding this NPI issue, go to www.ncpsychology.org and click on the link on the home page.