



## SPECIAL BULLETIN

### **National Provider Identifier (NPI) Dual Usage Period Extended for TRICARE Providers**

On April 2, 2007, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) published guidance to the healthcare industry regarding National Provider Identifier (NPI) contingency planning. CMS' NPI contingency plan guidance allows providers, vendors, clearinghouses and health plans ('covered entities') that demonstrate "good faith efforts" a maximum of 12 additional months (i.e., May 23, 2008) to achieve NPI compliance without financial penalty.

CMS encouraged 'covered entities' to assess the readiness of their communities and determine the need to implement contingency plans to maintain the flow of payments, while continuing to work toward compliance.

**TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), having completed its assessment of TRICARE NPI readiness, issued direction to TriWest on April 25, 2007, to "extend the dual-usage period to May 23, 2008, or upon further notice from the contracting officer, should the industry demonstrate readiness before May 23, 2008."**

TMA's direction allows TriWest to adjudicate HIPAA compliant standard electronic transactions (e.g., EDI claims) that use your current TRICARE provider identifier (e.g., UPIN, License number, Medicare identifier or TEPRV ), only an NPI, or both after the initial compliance date of May 23, 2007, or until notified by the contracting officer.

#### ***How does TMA's NPI contingency plan impact you?***

TriWest will not deny EDI claims without an NPI after May 23, 2007. However, you are required to get your NPI no later than May 23, 2007 and share it with TriWest as soon as possible to ensure you have demonstrated a good faith effort to become NPI compliant. In addition, you should be aware that TMA will be assessing industry readiness and may elect to implement NPI prior to May 23, 2008.

We encourage you to use your NPI today when submitting EDI claims. Network providers should contact their local network representative if they experience issues with their vendors or clearinghouses being ready. Non-network providers having issues should contact WPS EDI at 1-800-782-2680, Option 2.

#### ***Get, Share and Use Your NPI!***

Refer to [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com)/Provider Connection/Your NPI Connection for information on how to get and share your NPI. If you have questions about how to test or use your NPI, please contact WPS EDI at 1-800-782-2680, Option 2.