IMPORTANT NPI UPDATE:
Effective May 23, 2008, Highmark Will Reject Electronic Claims That Don’t Contain NPIs in Billing, Rendering Provider and Service Facility Field

Providers who have registered a National Provider Identifier (NPI) number or numbers with Highmark and who electronically submit claims should begin immediately to submit their NPIs in the billing, rendering provider and service facility field (when applicable) of all claim submissions, if they haven’t already been doing so.

Please be advised that, effective May 23, 2008 — the date on which the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) contingency guidelines for HIPAA-covered entities will expire — Highmark will reject electronic claim submissions that don’t contain an NPI in the billing, rendering provider and service facility field, and will return the claims to the provider. Additionally, Highmark will reject electronic inquiry transactions — such as eligibility, authorization and claims status inquiries — that do not contain NPIs. This action is being taken to comply with the CMS HIPAA mandate and enforcement of the NPI Final Rule.

Therefore, so that your claims are processed correctly when the May 23, 2008, deadline arrives, and to help ensure seamless revenue flow for your practice, please begin immediately to include your NPI in the billing, rendering provider and service facility field on all electronic claims. Additionally, please be sure to contact your software vendor, clearinghouse and/or trading partner to ensure that they can send and receive transactions with the NPI to avoid delays in payment of your claims.

For more information, reference the Highmark NPI Billing Guidelines for details on requirements for electronic transactions. The guidelines, along with other NPI information resources, are available via the NPI page on Highmark’s online Provider Resource Center (hover on HIPAA and select NPI). Or, you may contact Highmark EDI Operations at 1-800-992-0246 or www.highmark.com/edi.

Non-compliance Could Mean Federal Penalties
CMS had initiated the contingency guidelines for those HIPAA-covered entities who were not NPI compliant as of the original NPI compliance deadline of May 23, 2007. The contingency guidelines provided relief from penalties for HIPAA-covered entities who continued to demonstrate good-faith efforts to become HIPAA NPI compliant by May 23, 2008. CMS has stated that HIPAA-covered entities who aren’t HIPAA NPI compliant or haven’t shown good-faith efforts to become compliant by May 23, 2008, could face civil monetary penalties.

Visit www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/Downloads/NPI_Contingency.pdf to read the CMS contingency requirements in detail via a document titled “Guidance on Compliance with the HIPAA NPI Rule.”

Highmark is a registered mark of Highmark Inc.