



# PROVIDER ALERT

Alert # 8-2007-5/17 – HCAL, HCY/A, HCB, HCCH, HCNE, HCNC, WBH, UPMC for Life, UPMC SNP, UPMC for Kids

## **NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER (NPI) CLAIMS SUBMISSION**

As you are probably aware, on April 2, 2007, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced it would allow covered entities under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to implement contingency plans concerning compliance with the National Provider Identifier (NPI) Rule requirements.

The CMS announcement provides HIPAA-covered entities with the flexibility to extend continued use of legacy identifiers for up to 12 months beyond the May 23, 2007 NPI compliance date.

Furthermore, we have been communicating with our participating providers and doing outreach to them in a concerted effort to ensure that we have all required NPIs by the May 23, 2007 compliance date. We continue to urge any health care providers who have not yet obtained their NPI to do so at their earliest convenience. (A copy of the NPI Provider Alert is attached for reference)

### **COMMUNITY CARE CONTINGENCY PLAN**

In order to ensure that there is no disruption in claims payment, Community Care has developed a Contingency Plan.

Beginning on May 23, 2007, Community Care and The UPMC Health Plan are requesting providers to submit their electronic files with both their NPI and legacy identifiers until otherwise notified. For those providers that still have not received their NPI number, Community Care will continue to accept their legacy identifiers to ensure accurate processing of their respective files.

When Community Care determines a date where only NPIs will be accepted to process claims submitted electronically all providers will be notified at a minimum of 60 days in advance of this change. Any electronic claim submitted after this date still containing only a legacy identifier will not be considered a clean claim and will be denied and sent back to the provider.

**FIRST TIME NPI USERS:** It is highly recommended that all electronic claims submitters conduct test transmissions of claims in advance of transitioning their submissions. In order to arrange for a test transmission, please contact Bill Simmons, Project Manager, at (412) 454-8609 or via e-mail at [simmons\\_wj@ccbh.com](mailto:simmons_wj@ccbh.com).