



April 7, 2008

Jeannie Lucas, MSW
Manager of Operations & Projects
Maine Network for Health
23 Water Street, Suite 408
Bangor, ME 04401

Dear Jeannie:

Effective May 23, 2007, covered entities, to include covered health care providers, all health care plans and health care clearing houses, were required to use a National Provider Identifier (NPI) in administrative and financial transactions as adopted by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The compliance date for small health plans is May 23, 2008. The NPI is a 10 digit unique numeric identifier for covered health care providers.

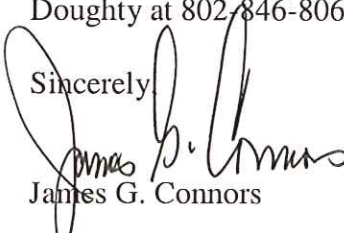
CMS recognized that transactions involving two covered entities, one being a small health plan, would result in non-compliance. Therefore, CMS allowed for non-compliant transactions, for non-small health plans, for a 12 month period after the compliance date for those covered entities that deployed contingency plans demonstrating reasonable and diligent efforts to become compliant. EBPA created a contingency plan which will expire May 23, 2008.

Our contingency plan requires that effective May 23, 2008 all claims submitted to EBPA must have the provider's NPI on the bill. The NPI number is located in Box 24j (physicians and other individual providers) or 33a (durable medical equipment providers, rendering facilities, etc.) on HCFA claims, Box 56 on UB04 claims (hospitals) and Box 44 or 49 on dental claim forms depending on the version the dentist bills with. If the claim is submitted without the NPI the claim will be denied requesting the provider bill with their NPI number.

Although the regulation requires the NPI number only for claims transmitted electronically, EBPA, as well as Medicare and other healthcare carriers, will require that the provider bills with their NPI for all claims. The reason for this requirement is that EBPA electronically transmits claims data to various entities such as networks for repricing, surcharge reports to various states, etc., which must contain the provider's NPI. Our electronic claims vendor, Emdeon, will reject all claims submitted without the provider's NPI effective May 23, 2008.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jim Connors at 603-773-4585 or April Doughty at 802-846-8068.

Sincerely,


James G. Connors