



State of Tennessee
Department of Finance and Administration
Bureau of TennCare
310 Great Circle Road
Nashville, TN 37243

Phil Bredesen
Governor

M.D. Goetz Jr.
Commissioner

Date: May 17, 2007

To: Intermediate Care Nursing Facilities (Level 1)
Skilled Care Facilities (Level 2)
Area Agencies on Aging and Disability
Commission on Aging and Disability
Meritan, Inc.

From: Pat Santel,
Director, Long Term

Re: **URGENT UPDATE:**
Change to National Provider Identifier (NPI) Implementation

The Bureau of TennCare is ensuring compliance with the federal regulation 45 CFR 162, which states that healthcare providers must obtain a unique and permanent provider identifier; and the Bureau is urging providers to obtain their NPI and register it with TennCare as outlined below.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced a contingency plan that will allow providers to continue using their current provider numbers for an extended period of time. During this time, the Bureau will actively pursue the collection of all NPI numbers, as the percentage of those who have reported their NPI numbers remains low. As part of the CMS contingency plan, the Bureau is asking that you continue to use your current provider number when submitting all claims to insure continuity of payments.

NPI numbers should continue to be reported to our Provider Relations Department as outlined below. All facilities will be notified, in advance, when to begin using the NPI numbers. Upon final implementation of NPI, TennCare policy will require the use of NPI on all electronic and paper transactions (UB-04, CMS 1500).

How is an NPI obtained?

- National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES)
On-line: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/> OR By phone: 1-800-465-3203

How to register your NPI with TennCare:

- Once you obtain your NPI, the information can be submitted to TennCare by:

Fax: In the Nashville area 615-248-4386
Outside of the of the Nashville area 866-456-8059

Mail: **Provider Enrollment**
Attn: NPI Collection
310 Great Circle Road
Nashville, TN 37243-1700

If you have any questions about this memo, please do not hesitate to contact me.