



September 7, 2007

Dear Submitter:

BCBSIL, BCBSNM, BCBSTX, and BCBSOK, divisions of Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC), a Mutual Legal Reserve Company, are beginning the transition to an NPI-only environment. By early September, we will begin advising a select number of our providers that they are approved to submit NPI-only electronic claims. These select providers, initially representing approximately 10% to 15% of the total HCSC provider community, have been submitting claims with dual identification numbers (BCBS provider number *and* NPI) and have successfully completed the testing phase. Their claims have continued to process cleanly through our crosswalk system.

We have requested that each of these providers work with their vendors to ensure the vendors have the capability to submit NPI-only claims. If our providers notify you that they are approved to submit NPI-only claims, but you are unable to submit NPI-only claims on their behalf, continue to submit claims with dual identification numbers. Please notify your EDI representative of your NPI-only implementation plans, or contact our E-Commerce Center at 1.800.746.4614.

After this initial group has been processed, additional groups of HCSC providers will be selected according to the tentative schedule below:

September 4	Initial Group	12,000 to 18,000 providers
October 1	Second Group	38,000 to 63,000 providers (cumulative total)
November 1	Third Group	75,000 to 88,000 (cumulative total)
December 1	Fourth Group	Approximately 106,000 providers (cumulative total)

*Please be advised that, as of December 1, 2007, claims received without an NPI and claims with only a BCBS provider number will be rejected.* Beginning December 1, 2007, providers who have not been approved to submit NPI-only claims are required to submit claims to us using dual identifiers (NPI *and* BCBS provider number).

Thank you for your continued cooperation throughout the transition period.

Sincerely,

Blue Cross and Blue Shield