



October XX, 2006

Name
Address
City/State/Zip

Dear Provider:

The required use of the National Provider Identifier (NPI) is quickly approaching. Over the past several months, we have communicated information on where and how to obtain an NPI and have posted a significant amount of information on our Web site, www.bcbsil.com/provider/provider_identifier.htm, to facilitate our collection of NPI information as well as share our implementation plans.

Beginning November 15, 2006 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) will begin accepting **NPI and BCBS number**. As of this date there will be only two ways to submit electronic claims to BCBSIL:

1. Both NPI and BCBS provider numbers **or**
2. Only Blue Cross and Blue Shield provider number(s)

The transition period between November 15, 2006 and the compliance date of May 23, 2007 will allow us to continue to validate and remediate our system modifications while at the same time providing you with the opportunity to use and test any modifications made to your electronic claims submission process. **It is important to note that electronic and/or paper claims submitted with NPI only during this period will be rejected and returned to the submitting provider/organization.** If you submit electronic claim transactions to BCBSIL, it is imperative that you carefully read and follow the instructions in the BCBSIL Companion Guide which is currently posted on the Availity Web site at www.availity.com.

If you already have your NPI, please let us know by completing and returning our NPI Submission Form along with a copy of your confirmation letter or e-mail from NPPES. A copy of the NPI Submission Form is available by calling Provider Customer Service or on our provider Web site at <http://www.bcbsil.com/provider/index.htm>. For a copy of your NPPES confirmation letter e-mail customerservice@npienumerator.com or contact the NPI Enumerator at 1-800-465-3203. If you have already informed us, we appreciate your diligence.

If you have not yet received your NPI, you can apply for your NPI in one of the following ways:

1. **Online Application:** The Web address is <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>
2. **Mail:** You may prepare a paper application and send it to:
NPI Enumerator
P. O. Box 6059
Fargo, ND 58108-6059

For those providers who submit paper claims to BCBSIL, please do not use the revised CMS-1500 claim form version 08/05 until you receive further communication from BCBSIL. Paper claims submitted with only an NPI will be rejected.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois