

National Provider Identifier Frequently Asked Questions

SECTION II - How do I get an NPI?

1. Will BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee assign my NPI?

No. BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee and other health plans do not assign NPI. You will need to apply for an NPI with CMS. CMS is handling the NPI registration process through a vendor (Fox Systems) using the **National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES)**.

2. Do I have to apply for NPI myself?

There are two ways to obtain your NPI:

- Complete and submit an on-line or paper request.
- Permit an EFIO (Electronic File Interchange Organization) to request NPI for you.
- If you choose to apply yourself, the application process is easy. The application should only take about 20 minutes to complete; and, if you are an individual provider, you will never have to complete another application. Once you receive your NPI, it is yours for life.

3. Where will I find the information I need to apply myself?

You will find the information on line at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do> or call 1.800.465.3203 to request a paper application if you prefer not to print one from the website.

4. What will the enumerator (NPPES) do when they receive a file from an EFIO?

The enumerator will edit the file of NPI requests, assign NPIs to all validated applications and return a file to the EFIO that contains each provider's NPI or information about edit errors. The EFIO may need to get more information from a provider whose application did not pass the enumerator's edits.

5. How long will it take before I receive my NPI?

This will depend on the volume of applications received. It is possible that applications will be heaviest closer to the end date for obtaining NPI, so consider applying early.

6. What is the NPI deadline?

See Section I, question 16.

7. Will the NPI deadline be extended?

There is no information to suggest that the May 23, 2007, date will be extended.

8. Is there a penalty for not meeting the May 2007 date?

Per Federal regulations, a fine of \$100 may be assessed for each violation up to an annual maximum of \$25,000. The provider will be required to comply within 30 days. We recommend that you apply for your NPI well in advance of the deadline to ensure that you avoid any penalty.

9. I would like to discuss NPI in more detail with BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee. Who can I contact?

Providers wishing to discuss the NPI in more detail with BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee should contact William Lockery by e-mail, bill_lockery@bcbst.com or by phone (423) 535-3722.