



30 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414  
jfs.ohio.gov

**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE LETTER (MAL) 523**

To: Pharmacy Providers  
Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services  
Medical Assistance Coordinators

From: Helen E. Jones-Kelley, Director

Re: **Information Pharmacy Providers Must Know about the National Provider Identifier (NPI) in Order to Get Paid**

**NPI.....GET IT.....SHARE IT.....USE IT**

The purpose of this Medical Assistance Letter (MAL) is to inform providers who are enrolled as pharmacy providers in the Ohio Medicaid program and do business with ODJFS that they are required to bill using a National Provider Identifier (NPI) beginning May 23, 2007. An NPI is a unique, ten-digit, entity type 1, identifier that pharmacy providers receive from the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) or National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES).

This MAL refers only to submission of pharmacy (drug) claims through the point-of-sale system. For instructions about submitting claims for durable medical equipment/disposable medical supplies (DME/DMS), please refer to the Medicaid Handbook Transmittal Letter (MHTL) that will be sent to durable medical equipment (DME) providers. Pharmacies who have been using the same Medicaid provider ID to bill pharmacy and DME/DMS may use the same NPI to submit pharmacy and DME/DMS claims. However, DME/DMS claims must also include the Medicaid provider ID through December 31, 2007.

**I. How must my NPI relate to my Medicaid legacy number?**

If your company received this MAL, your company submitted claim(s) as a pharmacy provider to ODJFS at least once during the last twelve months. When pharmacy providers enroll to do business with ODJFS, they are issued a pharmacy provider Medicaid legacy number.

Pharmacy providers must submit only the non-individual NPI assigned to their pharmacy with the Ohio Medicaid legacy number that was issued to them as a pharmacy provider. Only one NPI number can be associated with your Ohio Medicaid legacy number. A pharmacy provider's NPI should never be submitted to ODJFS with a Medicaid legacy

number that belongs to any other provider. Please be sure that the NPI you have reported to ODJFS is for your pharmacy business, not for an individual pharmacist.

## **II. How do I bill ODJFS using the NPI?**

The billing instructions contained in this MAL are for pharmacy (drug) claims only. Please refer to the MHTL that will be sent to DME providers for information about billing DME/DMS.

The pharmacy NPI is required on all point-of-sale and paper claims submissions beginning May 23, 2007. Please see the updated payer sheet on our web site at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/bhpp/meddrug.stm>. The pharmacy's NPI should be submitted in NCPDP version 5.1 field #201-B1 (service provider ID), with field #202-B2 (service provider ID qualifier) submitted as Ø1 (NPI). Claims submitted with a service provider ID other than NPI may be rejected beginning May 23, 2007.

The prescriber ID in fields #411-DB (prescriber ID) and #466-EZ (prescriber ID qualifier) may be submitted as either NPI (qualifier Ø1) or Medicaid ID (qualifier Ø5) until further notice. ODJFS asks that pharmacies collect and use prescriber NPIs when they are available, but will not deny claims using a prescriber's Medicaid ID until it is apparent that pharmacies have adequate access to prescriber NPIs.

## **III. Why am I required to get an NPI?**

The Code of Federal Regulations, CFR 45, Subpart D, Section 162.410 (a) (1) through (a) (6), requires pharmacy providers to obtain an NPI, to use it on all standard transactions where a pharmacy provider identifier is required, and to disclose their NPI, when requested, to any entity that needs the NPI to identify that pharmacy provider in a standard transaction, including standard transactions sent to any health plan (i.e., Medicaid, Medicare or any other health plan). ODJFS must also comply with the federal regulations.

## **IV. Am I required to share my NPI number with ODJFS?**

Yes, the pharmacy provider must disclose to ODJFS the NPI number that has been assigned to the pharmacy provider. If you do not disclose your NPI to ODJFS, ODJFS will not be able to recognize you as a valid Medicaid pharmacy provider. This could cause your claims to deny.

Instructions on how to disclose your NPI information to ODJFS can be obtained under "SHARE IT!" from the following site: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/providers/npi.stm>.

## **V. Am I required to share my NPI with other entities?**

Yes, as stated in Section V above, you are required to disclose your NPI, when requested, to any entity that needs the NPI to identify the pharmacy provider in a standard

transaction. This includes disclosing your NPI to Medicaid, Medicare, other health plans and other health care providers.

ODJFS appreciates the attention of the pharmacy providers in this matter, and as a result of their cooperation anticipates a successful transition to NPI enumeration.

**Questions pertaining to this MAL should be addressed to:**

**Bureau of Plan Operations  
Provider Services Section  
P.O. Box 1461  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1461  
Toll free telephone number 1-800-686-1516**

**Questions pertaining to billing pharmacy claims should be addressed to:**

**ACS Technical Call Center  
Toll free telephone number 1-877-518-1545**