

**May 3, 2007**

**BCBSRI's Position on the CMS NPI Contingency Plan for May 23, 2007**

In April 2007, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that some health plans will not be able to fully comply with the National Provider Identifier (NPI) standard by May 23, 2007. In their message, CMS encouraged payers to develop their own NPI contingency plans to allow them and their trading partners to continue to move toward NPI-only compliance on or before May 23, 2008.

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) understands that our providers work with other payers who may have different claim filing requirements. We have also received feedback that most of our providers plan to submit both legacy and NPI numbers. In addition, BCBSRI has also experienced a delay in our original timeline for NPI preparedness. As a result, BCBSRI is now asking all providers to submit both legacy (payer-assigned identifier) and NPI numbers on all claims (both paper and electronic). We anticipate being ready to accept NPI-only claims by July and will notify you as that date approaches via *Policy Update* and other communication vehicles.

In addition, beginning May 23, 2007, BCBSRI provider settlements will display the billing NPI, if available, near the legacy billing number.