NPI Industry Forum

NPI
and
Atypical Service Providers

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Atypical Providers

◆ Agenda
  – Who is eligible for an NPI?
  – What is an Atypical Provider?
  – Atypical Provider/Service Examples
  – Enumeration of Atypical Providers
  – Food for Thought
  – Questions
Who is eligible for an NPI?

- NPI regulation published 1-23-04
  - Covered healthcare providers **must** obtain an NPI by compliance date and must use the NPI in covered transactions
  - A *covered health care provider* is a healthcare provider that meets the definition at paragraph (3) of the definition of covered entity at 45 CFR 160.103
Who is eligible for an NPI?

- From TCS Final Rule (45 CFR 160.103) - paragraph (3) of definition of covered entity
  - (3) A healthcare provider who transmits any health information in electronic form in connection with a transaction covered by this subchapter.
Who is eligible for an NPI?

From TCS Final Rule (45 CFR 160.103)

- Healthcare provider means a provider of service as defined in section 1861(u) of the SSA, a provider of medical or other health services as defined in section 1861(s) of the SSA, and any other person or organization who furnishes, bills, or is paid for healthcare in the normal course of business.

All healthcare providers are eligible to obtain NPI
Who is eligible for an NPI?

- **Healthcare providers 1861(u)**
  - Hospital, critical access hospital, skilled nursing facility, CORF, hospice, home health agency

- **Healthcare services 1861(s)**
  - Physician services, hospital services, drugs, psychologist services, home dialysis services & supplies, outpatient PT & OT, DME and medical supplies, ambulance, diagnostic services, medical screening tests, CNM & CRNA services, eyeglasses, prosthetic devices, certain shoes, etc.
Who is eligible for an NPI?

From TCS Final Rule (160.103)

- *Health care* means care, services, or supplies furnished to an individual and related to the health of the individual. Health care includes the following:
  
  - Preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitative, maintenance, or palliative care; counseling; service; or procedure with respect to the physical or mental condition, or functional status, of an individual or affecting the structure or function of the body.
  
  - Sale or dispensing of a drug, device, equipment, or other item in accordance with a prescription.
  
  - Procurement or banking of blood, sperm, organs, or any other tissue for administration to individuals.
What is an atypical provider?

**Atypical** –
- Not corresponding to the normal form or type; not typical
- Not conforming to type; unusual or irregular
- Deviating from what is usual or common or to be expected; often somewhat odd or strange

**Not defined in the Final NPI Rule**
- Not a healthcare care provider
- Does not provide healthcare
What is an “atypical provider”? 

From the preamble to the Final Rule (3437)

- Individual or organization that provides nontraditional services that are indirectly healthcare related
- Must determine if the individual or organization provides any services that fall within definition of healthcare at 45CFR 160.103
- If no, and does not provide other services or supplies that bring it within the definition of “healthcare provider” then not healthcare provider under HIPAA and not eligible for an NPI
What is an “atypical provider”?  

From Preamble to TCS Final Rule (50315)  

- Transactions for certain services that are not normally considered healthcare services, but which may be covered by some health plans would not be subject to the standards.  
- Atypical services that meet the definition of healthcare must be billed using the standards.  
- Health plans may require that atypical service providers use the standards for the plan’s own business purposes.
Atypical Service Examples

- From TCS Final Rule (50315) - not healthcare services
  - Nonemergency transportation
  - Physical alterations to living quarters for the purpose of accommodating disabilities
  - Vehicle modifications
  - Some Medicaid Home & Community Based services

- Case Management is healthcare service subject to the standards
Atypical Service Examples

From NPI Final Rule (3437) – not healthcare services

- Taxi services
- Home and vehicle modifications
- Insect control
- Habilitation
- Respite services
Atypical Provider Examples

How to evaluate an atypical provider

- Must evaluate both the service and the entity providing the service
- Within healthcare provider definition?
- Does the organization or entity furnish, bill or provide healthcare (as defined in 160.103) in the normal course of business?
- If the service is healthcare or the provider is a healthcare provider then they are eligible for an NPI
Atypical Provider Examples

CMS identified provider taxonomy codes that don’t appear to be healthcare providers

- Individuals
  - Contractor (home modifications) 171W00000X
  - Funeral Director 176P00000X
  - Driver 172A00000X
  - Lodging 177F00000X
  - Specialist/Graphics designer 174M00000X
  - Veterinarian 174M00000X
Atypical Provider Examples

- CMS identified provider taxonomy codes that don’t appear to be healthcare providers
  - Non Individuals
    - Bus 347B00000X
    - Non-emergency medical transport (VAN) 343900000X
    - Private vehicle 347C00000X
    - Taxi 344600000X
    - Train 347D00000X
    - Transportation Broker 347E00000X
Atypical Provider Examples

NMEH evaluating a list of individuals or organizations for atypical status

- Prematernal homes
- CHA/P – Community Health Aids or Practitioners
- Custodial care facility
- Adult day care providers
- School based service providers
- Care coordinators
- Personal Emergency Response System companies
- Assisted Living Facility
- Supports Brokers
How are these providers enumerated now?

- Health plans assign legacy provider ID numbers the same as for any other provider.
- Some atypical providers are not paid directly rather receive reimbursement through an organization.
- Some are identified by SSN/EIN and receive a check via a nonstandard billing/payment or voucher process.
 Enumeration of Atypical Providers

◆ How **will** these providers be enumerated?
  – The $1 million question!
  – NPI range of numbers beginning with 5 reserved?
  – Why assign another proprietary number?
  – Ideally should be enumerated with all other providers on national basis
Enumeration of Atypical Providers

◆ How will these providers be enumerated?
  – Barriers to NPI assignment for atypicals?
  – Process in NPPES to “deny” nonhealthcare taxonomies?
  – By applying for NPI attests that they are healthcare provider or person providing healthcare.
Enumeration of Atypical Providers

Benefits of enumeration

- Standardization!
- No duplication of numbers across plans
- No question if one can or cannot have NPI
- Facilitates coordination of benefits and interoperability
- Relieves administrative burden
Food for Thought

◆ Provider taxonomy codes
  – A valid taxonomy code does not indicate a healthcare provider
  – Absence of a taxonomy does not indicate atypical provider

◆ CMS makes ultimate determination as to whether NPI is required or not.
  – Atypical providers not likely to apply for NPI
  – Some atypicals will receive NPI
NPI is an enumeration scheme only – it is NOT a credentialing process.

Every health plan must still credential their providers

- Enrollment processes must still occur with every plan
- Plans must still verify licensure and other criteria
Food for Thought

- NPI assignment does not mean that a health plan must consider a provider a covered provider under their plan!
- No reimbursement liability attached to NPI
  - OR techs, paramedics, nurses may obtain an NPI
  - Plans are not obligated to make payment at that granularity
Food for Thought

◆ WEDI SNIP NPI workgroup white paper
  – Document types of atypical providers
  – Describe the services they deliver
  – Identify the current enumeration practices
  – Relate atypical providers to taxonomy codes
  – Review alternative approaches to enumeration

◆ The devil is in the details with atypical providers!
Questions

Questions?

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