



C A L I F O R N I A   D E P A R T M E N T   O F

# Mental Health

1600 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 654-2309

May 8, 2008

DMH LETTER NO.: 08-03

TO: LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS  
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM CHIEFS  
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS  
CHAIRPERSONS, LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARDS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER (NPI) IMPLEMENTATION

REFERENCE: HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY  
ACT OF 1996 (HIPAA)

This letter is to inform counties of the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) transition to full compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) National Provider Identifier (NPI) rule (45 CFR Part 162, Subpart D), which requires the NPI to be used as the single provider identifier on the 837 HIPAA transactions.

Effective May 23, 2008, DMH will no longer accept claims on which the four-character Short Doyle Medi-Cal (SDMC) number is used to identify the provider. All SDMC claims from that date forward must use the NPI as the single provider identifier; any claims from that date forward which either use the four-character SDMC number as a provider identifier or do not use the NPI as the provider identifier will be rejected. The NPI for the rendering provider must also be included on the claim. Although the Rendering Provider NPI is not being used for adjudication purposes at this time, it is a HIPAA requirement and the HIPAA validation tool will reject the file if it is not provided when required. Additional technical information, including examples of how to report the NPI on the 837 claim transactions, is available on the DMH Website at [http://www.dmh.ca.gov/hipaa/docs/DMH\\_CompanionGuide-061807.pdf](http://www.dmh.ca.gov/hipaa/docs/DMH_CompanionGuide-061807.pdf).

A testing and production environment for 837 transactions with the NPI as the single identifier is available for all Counties. All Counties must successfully test three 837 transactions with the NPI as the single identifier and receive three successful Remittance Advices (835) before submitting a claim in production. Counties may use the

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DMH Online Provider System (OPS) to verify that DMH has correctly associated an NPI to its four-character SDMC number. Counties may contact Carla Minor at (916) 653-5939 or at [Carla.Minor@dmh.ca.gov](mailto:Carla.Minor@dmh.ca.gov) with any questions related to the association of NPIs to four-character SDMC numbers.

If you have any questions regarding DMH's NPI Implementation, please contact Vonnie Ryser, Chief of the DMH Office of HIPAA Compliance, at (916) 654-0497 or at [HIPAA-TCS@dmh.ca.gov](mailto:HIPAA-TCS@dmh.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Original signed by

STEPHEN W. MAYBERG, Ph.D.  
Director