

## UCare Minnesota National Provider Identifier Contingency Plan

On April 2, 2007, The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a one year contingency plan for covered entities that were unable to be compliant by the May 23, 2007 deadline with the National Provider Identifier (NPI) regulations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996.

The contingency plan allows covered entities that have been making a good faith effort to comply with the NPI provisions, up to 12 months, ( May 23, 2008) to implement a contingency plan to ensure uninterrupted HIPAA transactions. This contingency allows for additional time to conduct testing that can eventually lead to exclusive NPI only provider identification.

The NPI contingency plan also recommends increased communication with health plans and others regarding their NPI readiness. The purpose of this communication is to share with you our contingency plan.

UCare is currently unable to accept and pay claims submitted with only the NPI on the compliance date of May 23, 2007. As such, UCare will continue to use the UCare Provider ID to process claims until further notice.

**CLAIMS:** UCare will accept claims with either of the following present:

- Both NPI and UCare Provider ID (dual IDs) reported on the claim
- Single UCare Provider ID reported on the claim

UCare is working to identify a date by which we will accept NPI-only claims, and will process dual ID claims using the NPI rather than the UCare Provider ID at that time.

For providers who are not eligible for and are not issued an NPI, UCare will continue to require the UCare Provider ID be reported on all claim transactions.

**REMITTANCE ADVICE:** On the NPI compliance date (May 23, 2007), UCare will not be reporting NPI on the electronic or paper remittance advices.

UCare is working to identify a date on which we will report NPI-only electronic (835) and paper remittance advices. On that date, UCare will return the NPI if we have received it from the provider or the UCare Provider ID if we have not yet received the NPI.

For providers who are not eligible for and are not issued an NPI, UCare will continue to report the UCare Provider ID on all remittance advices.

UCare strongly encourages covered entities to notify us of your NPI if you haven't already. To learn more about the different methods available for NPI submission, please visit our NPI Provider Page at <http://www.ucare.org/providers/npi.html>.