



ANA ISSUE BRIEF

*Information and analysis on topics affecting nurses,
the profession and health care.*

APRNs with NPIs: Distribution by Role and State

Key Points

APRNs across the U.S. have obtained a National Provider Identifier that facilitates their electronic direct billing to Medicare, Medicaid, and private health plans.

One of the aims of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) was administrative simplification. This included, among other things, creation of a single identifier unique to each health care provider that would be used by all health insurers. This new numbering system was to replace the historical system under which each insurer issued its own unique set of identifiers. By virtue of HIPAA, the Department of Health and Human Services and CMS have developed a system where all providers can be assigned a single number that will identify them in electronic transactions: their National Provider Identifier (NPI). The purpose of the NPI is to uniquely identify a health care provider in health care claims. NPIs may also be used to identify health care providers on prescriptions, in internal files to link proprietary provider identification numbers and other information, in coordination of benefits between health plans, in patient medical record systems, and in program integrity files. The system covers all types of providers including institutional providers—such as hospitals, and non-institutional providers—such as nurses. Registered nurses—in particular, APRNs—who directly bill health insurers for nursing services using electronic billing must apply for, obtain, and use an NPI.

CMS began issuing NPIs in October 2006. All providers, healthcare clearinghouses, and health plans completing electronic transactions were required by regulation to use only the NPI to identify covered healthcare providers by May 23, 2008. Once assigned, a provider's NPI is permanent and remains with the provider regardless of job or location changes. The NPI is a 10-position, “intelligence-free” numeric identifier (10-digit number). That is, nothing in the number itself contains any information on provider specialty or geographic location. Because one of the digits is a “check digit” in theory there could be as many as one billion different NPIs. (In any one year, Medicare carriers and fiscal intermediaries process transactions from approximately one million providers. Early in 2010 there were just more than three million NPIs on file at CMS.)

Certified nurse midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists are all eligible as covered providers with respect to Medicare. In particular, APRNs with master's degrees providing services within the scope of practice in their state may treat Medicare beneficiaries and directly bill for those services. Those APRNs, however, must first obtain their NPI. (NPIs are also required for those RNs who directly bill Medicaid.) As of March 2010 there were 152,041 individual APRNs in the United States and its ter-



ritories who had active NPIs. (There were an additional 219 individuals with non-U.S. addresses and also 5,833 non-individual NPI holders.) The distribution by APRN role and State is displayed below.

NPI counts

| jurisdiction | APRNs | CNM | CRNA | NP | CNS |
|----------------------|---------|-------|--------|---------|-------|
| U.S. AND TERRITORIES | 152,041 | 5,191 | 35,995 | 105,958 | 4,897 |
| UNITED STATES | 151,925 | 5,173 | 35,974 | 105,890 | 4,888 |
| AK | 498 | 24 | 45 | 425 | 4 |
| AL | 2,601 | 20 | 1,229 | 1,330 | 22 |
| AR | 1,351 | 15 | 358 | 914 | 64 |
| AZ | 2,564 | 80 | 233 | 2,189 | 62 |
| CA | 10,558 | 526 | 1,229 | 8,458 | 345 |
| CO | 2,409 | 158 | 308 | 1,845 | 98 |
| CT | 2,494 | 139 | 391 | 1,776 | 188 |
| DC | 364 | 30 | 15 | 310 | 9 |
| DE | 569 | 17 | 121 | 400 | 31 |
| FL | 9,609 | 281 | 2,676 | 6,534 | 118 |
| GA | 4,737 | 200 | 1,445 | 2,969 | 123 |
| HI | 480 | 24 | 102 | 316 | 38 |
| IA | 1,322 | 45 | 261 | 996 | 20 |
| ID | 685 | 19 | 179 | 468 | 19 |
| IL | 4,253 | 233 | 1,016 | 2,734 | 270 |
| IN | 2,777 | 92 | 233 | 2,304 | 148 |
| KS | 1,828 | 29 | 515 | 1,221 | 63 |
| KY | 2,772 | 54 | 703 | 1,959 | 56 |
| LA | 2,394 | 19 | 883 | 1,457 | 35 |
| MA | 5,638 | 255 | 645 | 4,368 | 370 |
| MD | 3,052 | 143 | 432 | 2,398 | 79 |
| ME | 1,189 | 48 | 258 | 841 | 42 |
| MI | 5,308 | 159 | 2,434 | 2,668 | 47 |
| MN | 5,117 | 144 | 1,584 | 3,127 | 262 |
| MO | 3,811 | 36 | 1,215 | 2,433 | 127 |
| MS | 1,981 | 20 | 456 | 1,491 | 14 |
| MT | 486 | 19 | 59 | 389 | 19 |
| NC | 5,805 | 193 | 2,264 | 3,275 | 73 |
| ND | 596 | 8 | 211 | 352 | 25 |
| NE | 1,049 | 21 | 269 | 740 | 19 |
| NH | 1,045 | 53 | 137 | 836 | 19 |
| NJ | 3,218 | 121 | 415 | 2,469 | 213 |
| NM | 949 | 71 | 130 | 675 | 73 |
| NV | 610 | 24 | 95 | 471 | 20 |
| NY | 10,101 | 380 | 1,022 | 8,551 | 148 |

152,041 U.S. APRNs have received an NPI



With respect to APRNs and NPIs, New York has the most NPs and CNMs; Florida has the most CRNAs, and Ohio has the most CNSs. California has the most APRNs total.

NPI counts (continued)

| jurisdiction | APRNs | CNM | CRNA | NP | CNS |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-----|
| OH | 5,930 | 162 | 1,698 | 3,642 | 428 |
| OK | 1,173 | 35 | 310 | 727 | 101 |
| OR | 2,051 | 155 | 286 | 1,562 | 48 |
| PA | 7,471 | 212 | 2,533 | 4,564 | 162 |
| RI | 612 | 35 | 115 | 414 | 48 |
| SC | 2,174 | 51 | 811 | 1,282 | 30 |
| SD | 642 | 17 | 285 | 323 | 17 |
| TN | 5,764 | 80 | 1,603 | 3,987 | 94 |
| TX | 9,120 | 227 | 2,456 | 6,069 | 368 |
| UT | 1,203 | 71 | 158 | 939 | 35 |
| VA | 3,567 | 95 | 711 | 2,681 | 80 |
| VT | 409 | 44 | 31 | 311 | 23 |
| WA | 3,383 | 136 | 455 | 2,718 | 74 |
| WI | 2,993 | 115 | 556 | 2,233 | 89 |
| WV | 978 | 28 | 362 | 574 | 14 |
| WY | 235 | 10 | 36 | 175 | 14 |
| | | | | | |
| AMERICAN SAMOA | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| GUAM | 19 | 6 | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| PALAU | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| PUERTO RICO | 65 | 7 | 19 | 30 | 9 |
| VIRGIN ISLANDS | 22 | 5 | 1 | 16 | 0 |

About two thirds of those APRNs with NPIs are Nurse Practitioners: 105,958 in total. NPIs have also been issued to 35,995 CRNA's, 5,191 certified nurse midwives, and 4,897 clinical nurse specialists. California and New York State lead the nation, each with more than 10,000 APRNs in their jurisdictions. New York has the most nurse practitioners with 8,551. (Those two states also lead with respect to certified nurse midwives.) CRNA's, however, are relatively much less common in California and New York. Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas, Michigan, and North Carolina each report more than 2,000 CRNA's with NPIs. Florida has the most at 2,676. The distribution of clinical nurse specialists also differs from that of the nurse practitioners. Ohio, with 428 NPIs for this role, leads the country followed by Massachusetts, with 370 and Texas with 368.



The CMS website has information on both the NPI application and Medicare enrollment as a provider.

More Information

Health care providers who are not HIPPA covered because they do not transmit information electronically are not required to obtain an NPI, but are not prohibited from doing so, and in some cases are encouraged to do so, as that number may be required for billing purposes by another provider to whom a referral has been made. If a non-covered health care provider obtains an NPI, it does not make her or him a covered entity.

RNs who wish to obtain an NPI can apply in several different ways. The online process can be started through the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>. There is also a paper application process. A copy of the application form (CMS-10114), which includes the NPI Enumerator's mailing address, is available only upon request through the NPI Enumerator. The NPI Enumerator's phone number is 1-800-465-3203 or TTY 1-800-692-2326. More information about the NPI and the NPI process can be obtained at <https://www.cms.gov/nationalprovidentstand/>.

Qualified APRNs with a master's degree can apply to provide services to Medicare patients and bill directly after they have obtained their NPI. CMS has established an Internet-based Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) for physicians, non-physician practitioners and providers and suppliers organizations. Internet-based PECOS allows APRNs to enroll, make a change in their Medicare enrollment, view their Medicare enrollment information on file with Medicare, or check on status of a Medicare enrollment application via the Internet. More information about the Internet-based PECOS is available at http://www.cms.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/04_InternetbasedPECOS.asp.

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