

**South Carolina**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
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[www.scdhhs.gov](http://www.scdhhs.gov)  
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Phys  
Pharm

# MEDICAID BULLETIN

**TO: Pharmacy Providers**

**SUBJECT: Mandatory Use of Prescriber's NPI (National Provider Identifier)**

Effective with dates of service on or after December 9, 2009, the South Carolina Medicaid's Pharmacy Services program will require the use of the prescriber's NPI when processing prescriptions for payment by point of sale (POS). This change will enhance Medicaid's ability to correctly identify prescribers. The use of modified state license numbers will no longer be accepted and the listings on our web site will be removed. Pharmacists will be able to obtain the prescriber's NPI directly from the practitioner or from the NPI Registry, which enables you to search for a provider's National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) information. All information produced by the NPI Registry is provided in accordance with the NPPES Data Dissemination Notice and this information is updated daily. You may run simple queries to retrieve this read-only data. For example, users may search for a provider by the NPI or Legal Business Name. There is no charge to use the NPI Registry. The registry can be accessed at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>.

The prescriber's NPI should be submitted in the Prescriber ID field (NCPDP field number 411-DB) with "01" submitted in the Prescriber ID Qualifier field (NCPDP field number 466-EZ).

In the event that a prescriber does not have an individual NPI, the facility NPI (ex. hospital) may be submitted. South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) strongly encourages providers to exhaust all avenues for identifying a prescriber's NPI. If neither an individual NPI nor facility NPI can be identified, providers may then contact the First Health Technical Call Center at 1-866-254-1669 to request an override. **Note:** This override will only be granted if it is verified that the prescriber does not have an NPI. For this override to work successfully, providers must submit a **Prescriber ID Qualifier** of "13" and enter the state license number in the **Prescriber ID** field.

Thank you for your participation in the South Carolina Medicaid Program. Please direct any questions regarding this bulletin to your Pharmacy Program Coordinator at (803) 898-2876.

/S/  
Emma Forkner  
Director

EF/mgd

**NOTE:** To receive Medicaid bulletins by email, please register at <http://bulletin.scdhhs.gov/>. To sign up for Electronic funds Transfer of your Medicaid payment, please go to: <http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/dhhsnew/hipaa/index.asp> and select "Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)" for instructions.