

National Provider Identifier Activities Begin in 2005!

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced the availability of a new provider identifier for use with standard electronic health care transactions.

The National Provider Identifier (NPI) will be the single provider identifier, replacing different provider identifiers you currently use for each health plan.

This identifier must be used by most HIPAA covered entities, including health plans, health care clearinghouses, and health care providers that conduct electronic transactions. You will be able to apply for your NPI starting May 23, 2005.

Most health plans, including Medicare, Medicaid, private health insurers, and clearinghouses must accept and use NPIs in standard transactions by May 23, 2007.

Small health plans have until May 23, 2008. After these dates, health care providers will only use NPIs to identify themselves in standard transactions, where the NPI is called for.

We at Avanta are watching this issue closely and will keep you informed of our progress in implementing the NPI. For more specific information, or to apply for an NPI, please visit <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>.

Moving, Remodeling, or Expanding Your Office?

Avanta asks that you please do not move or switch office equipment such as terminals, keyboards, and printers. Doing so without Avanta's assistance may cause problems that are difficult for us to diagnose as we may not have all the information regarding how the equipment was moved or disconnected.

If you are experiencing difficulty with or are planning to move computer equipment related to your Avanta system, please call us.

Several clients have recently experienced unnecessary downtime because they or a third party attempted to disconnect, move, and/or reconnect their hardware. Please call Chip at Avanta with advance notice so that we can assist you with any hardware needs. It's an easy first step to avoiding any hardware headaches.

Summer Holiday Office Schedule:

Avanta will be closed on Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day. We will also be closed on Monday, July 4th for Independence Day.