

CMS Initiates NPI-IRS Data Match for Legal Business Name

Medicare recently announced that they are sending letters to physicians who are incorporated if their corporation's legal business name is not accurately reflected in the National Plan and Provider System (NPPES), the database containing all physicians' NPI numbers. CMS initiated an NPPES-IRS data match to ensure that the legal business name (LBN) and employer identification number (EIN) in NPPES are consistent with IRS data. While physicians have been told they will be given 15 days to respond, the AMA has received assurances from CMS that they will not deactivate any numbers immediately following this short timeframe. CMS has furthermore told us this impacts a small percentage of physicians.

Physician offices can generally obtain the EIN/LBN from IRS paperwork, such as, a CP-575, a quarterly tax payment coupon, or other IRS correspondence that contain this data. Also, there may be instances where the physician does not readily maintain required IRS documentation. In this case, the physician applicant can request a verification letter (IRS 147C) from the IRS that identifies its EIN and LBN.

Physicians who are incorporated who receive such a letter are strongly urged to: 1) respond immediately to Medicare; 2) make any necessary changes to their LBN in their NPI record right away; and 3) contact the NPI database (NPPES) if they need more time. In the event that a NPI is deactivated, the physician will need to provide correcting information to the NPPES to reactivate the NPI. Physicians can access their NPI records in the NPPES system by going to <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/>. The number for the NPPES is 800-465-3203 should physicians have questions.