

NPPES Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How is NPPES accessed?

A: NPPES can be accessed via <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>

Q: How does CMS disseminate NPPES data?

A: In September 2007, CMS began disclosing NPPES health care provider data that can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Detailed information on accessing the NPPES data can be found at: <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Administrative-Simplification/NationalProvIdentStand/DataDissemination.html>

Q: How is NPPES being updated?

A: As of January 1, 2020, NPPES allows providers to attest to the accuracy of their NPI data. If a provider's information is correct, they will be able to attest to it and NPPES will record and reflect the attestation date. If the provider's information is not correct, when they request any change to the NPI record, the provider will be able to attest to their changed NPI data, resulting in an updated certification date. CMS will publish the latest certification date for each NPI in the NPI Registry as well as the NPPES dissemination file.

Q: Will CMS require providers to attest to their data?

A: No, there is no CMS requirement for providers to attest to the accuracy of their data. However, 45 CFR §162.410(a) provides specifications for health care providers regarding obtaining, disclosing, using NPI numbers and communicating with NPPES.

Q: Does NPPES have the ability for multiple provider addresses?

A: Yes, NPPES was recently updated to allow providers to input multiple addresses.

Q: Why does CMS feel that NPPES is good source for provider directories?

A: NPPES provides core directory data elements (provider name, provider specialty, provider address, provider telephone number) for virtually every provider in the country. Collectively, these data elements represent 91% of the CMS provider directory review errors found. NPPES data is available publically in a machine readable format at no cost.

Q: Is CMS requiring MAOs to use NPPES as a common source for provider directory data?

A: No, however, the use of NPPES data should serve as an important resource to improve provider directory reliability and accuracy.

Q: How does the use of NPPES impact compliance actions if CMS finds errors in MAOs' provider directories?

A: To encourage plans and providers to jointly work to make needed updates to NPPES, CMS in its monitoring and enforcement activities will employ discretion should it uncover errors in directories that are consistent with NPPES data that has been updated or certified between January 1 and April 30, 2020, so long as any errors identified are corrected within 30 days.