

## Part B News

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### Time running out to test NPI only on your claims

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You're running out of time to test sending claims to your carrier with just your National Provider Identifier (NPI). CMS officials again recommended you send "small batches" of claims using only the NPI as a test if you haven't done so already.

Testing small batches will give you a chance to work out any kinks in your claims filing process prior to CMS flipping the switch to just the NPI.

The deadline for the switch to using just NPIs on claim is May 23. An automatic rejection will be triggered if you use a legacy number anywhere on your claim form after the deadline ([PBN 2/11/08](#)).

As of late, 99% of claims have used an NPI on the form, but many of those claims are still using the legacy number as well, says Stewart Streimer, CMS acting deputy director of the Center of Medicare Management.

Streimer told listeners during CMS Open Door Forum conference calls on April 17 and 21 to test claims using NPIs without a legacy number before the deadline.

He also urged you to work with your clearinghouse to ensure claims with only NPIs won't get denied after May 23.

CMS also updated its National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) on April 21. The system now allows you to enter up to 50 Other Provider Identification Numbers, an increase from 20 numbers, into the NPPES record, among other changes.

Some large practices and facilities had complained of crosswalk difficulties in the NPI transition because NPPES wouldn't hold as many other identifiers as the practice was actively using.