

CMS Names Fox NPI Enumerator

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced that it has taken an important step in helping healthcare providers obtain the new standard unique healthcare provider identification (NPI) by naming Fox Systems Inc. the contractor to perform the support operations for the project.

As “enumerator” for this project, Fox will process applications from healthcare providers and operate a help desk to assist providers in obtaining an NPI. The assignment of the NPI, which will begin later this year, is mandated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), and will eventually become the primary healthcare provider identifier for standard transactions.

Adoption of the NPI is the latest step in implementing the Administrative Simplification Provisions of HIPAA. The Secretary of Health & Human Services has already adopted standards for electronic transactions, code sets, the employer identifier, and the privacy and security of protected health information.

Healthcare providers do not need to apply for an NPI at this time, CMS said. CMS will advise providers how to contact Fox to submit an application for an NPI as the implementation date approaches. The official start date for using the NPI on standard transactions with health plans other than small health plans is on or before May 23, 2007; however, healthcare providers should

not begin using the NPI until health plans have issued specific instructions for using them.

Fox Systems, which provides consulting services and solutions to county, state, and federal agencies, is being supported in this project by a subcontractor, Noridian Administrative Services (NAS) of Fargo, North Dakota.

Information on the NPI project can be found at www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2/regulations/identifiers/default.asp, by calling the HIPAA Hotline: 866.282.0659, or by writing to AskHIPAA@cms.hhs.gov

OrPro Promotes Bell

OrPro Inc., Irvine, California, recently announced the promotion of Beverly Bell to the newly established position of director of business operations. Bell has been with OrPro since 2002 as the business operations manager of the company’s Dayton, Ohio, group, which includes five offices in Ohio and one office in Indiana. In the new position, Bell will have responsibilities with all 11 OrPro patient care facilities and the new OrPro fabrication center. Bell will remain based in the Dayton office.



Bell started in the O&P field with Dynamic Orthotics & Prosthetics in Houston, Texas, before relocating to the Dayton area.

Hanger Appoints Chief Medical Officer

Hanger Orthopedic Group Inc., Bethesda, Maryland, has appointed John J. Rush, MD, as its vice president and chief medical officer, a newly created position. An emergency medical physician with over ten years of health services business management, Rush was recruited to provide strategic and technical direction for the clinical affairs of the company.

Reporting to Hanger chairman and CEO Ivan R. Sabel, CPO, Rush will lead efforts to develop clinical efficacy and outcome measurement programs that articulate the value and clinical appropriateness of O&P devices and treatments. Serving as a member of Hanger’s operating committee, Rush will provide a medical perspective to the company’s business operations and growth opportunities. Rush will also assist in marketing Hanger’s services to insurance and health plan personnel and medical professionals/physicians nationwide.

Most recently, Rush served as president of Inpatient Physicians Network of America, an organization that provides an in-hospital physician network across the southwest. Previously, Rush served as vice president of medical management and as a regional health services director for PacificCare Health Systems, Cypress, California. Rush also served as an associate medical director for CIGNA HealthCare in New Jersey, was vice president of medical affairs for Coastal Physicians Network in North Carolina, and CFO of Wake Emergency Physicians in North Carolina.

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