

Blue Shield Report

A Newsletter for
Professional Providers and
their Staff Members



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The *Blue Shield Report* is published by the professional relations department of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas.

OUR WEB ADDRESS:
<http://www.bcbsks.com>

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Questions:

Contact your professional relations representative or the professional relations hotline in Topeka at 785-291-4135 or 800-432-3587.

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NPI Contingency Plan

Earlier this spring, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) announced, via e-mail notification and remittance advice inserts, that we were in the process of developing an NPI contingency plan. That plan has been completed and contains important information for providers, as outlined below.

Beginning May 23, 2007, BCBSKS will accept the following combinations of billing and performing provider numbers on all claims (both paper and electronic):

1. Legacy only
2. Legacy and NPI
3. NPI only

Providers should begin or continue sending both legacy and NPI numbers until they have verified their "NPI only" readiness with BCBSKS. Legacy only numbers will be accepted until the second phase of our contingency plan is implemented, which will occur once we've reached a sufficient volume of claims being submitted with legacy and NPI or NPI only numbers. We're hopeful this might occur as soon as July 1, 2007.

We will assess compliance daily during this contingency to determine the appropriate date to accept only NPI ready claims. Once that date has been determined and our providers have been notified, BCBSKS will begin rejecting claims submitted without an NPI.

When a provider is ready to submit with NPI only, they must notify BCBSKS by contacting the professional relations hotline or their field representative. At that time, an effective date will be established for the provider to begin such submissions.

Providers should keep in mind that once they commit to using only the NPI number they will:

- Receive only the NPI number on paper and electronic remittance advices.
- Be required to send the NPI number on 270/271 (eligibility and benefit inquiry) and 276/277 (claims status inquiry) transactions.
- Be required to enter their NPI number when submitting a transaction in the secured section of www.bcbsks.com.