

## **Physicians Urged to Review NPI Data by June 28**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently published the National Provider Identifier (NPI) Data Dissemination notice detailing who will have access to NPI numbers and how this access will occur. Unfortunately, CMS has only given physicians until June 28 to review their data to prevent optional personally identifiable data from being released to the general public. This optional information may include physician billing identification numbers used by public and private payers and e-mail addresses.

The potential public disclosure of optional physician data raises many potential security and privacy issues. The AMA has requested that CMS immediately remove all optional data from the NPI database and republish the dissemination notice to clarify specifically which data elements may be publicly disclosed.

**However, as a precaution, the ACC encourages all physicians to review their NPI optional information by June 28 and request deletion of any personal optional information they do not want publicly released.**

Examples of data that is considered optional in the NPI application:

- Other Name Information (Section 2A, #'s 7-12).
- Other Organization or Group Name (Section 2B #3).
- Other Provider Identification Numbers (Section 3C).
- E-mail address for Contact Person (Section 5A, #8).

CMS has stated that a physician's social security number, date of birth and IRS Taxpayer Identification Numbers are not disclosable to the public.

Physicians who would like to review and remove their optional data should do so either online by going to <https://NPPES.cms.hhs.gov> or by calling the NPI enumerator, NPPES, at (800) 465-3203, for a change of information form.

For more specific information on the Data Dissemination Notice, see <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvdentStand/Downloads/DataDisseminationNPI.pdf>.

Physicians must have an NPI to participate in the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) beginning July 1 and receive a bonus payment for reporting quality measures. For more information on obtaining an NPI, see <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvdentStand/>.