

ACMG Encourages Members to Apply for a National Provider Identifier (NPI) Number

There is a new system for the identification and recognition of a broad range of health professionals by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and other payers. As mandated by the Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) was developed to collect identifying information on health care providers and assign each a unique standard identifier, or **National Provider Identifier (NPI)**. Until recently, the Unique Physician Identification Number (UPIN) system was only open to physicians. Now, PhD medical geneticists, genetic counselors and other non-physician providers are also able to apply for these identifiers and thereby improve their opportunities for reimbursement.

ACMG is encouraging all ACMG members to apply for a NPI number. This will allow you to have a unique billing identifier, and you will automatically be listed in national provider databases. While having a NPI number does not guarantee payment for services, it should prove to be increasingly valuable over time.

Please check with your institution to determine whether they will be completing the application process for you. If they are not assisting you, an application form that includes instructions for completion can be obtained from acmg@acmg.net. For the most efficient receipt of your NPI, you are advised to use the web-based NPI application process at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>. Further information and guidance is also available at this same web address. You may also mail your completed application to: NPI Enumerator, PO Box 6059, Fargo, ND 58108-6059.

You will note that the application asks you to indicate your 10-digit provider taxonomy code. Codes for genetics professionals are listed below. Additional taxonomy codes can be found at www.wpc-edi.com/taxonomy.

Medical Genetics

- Clinical Biochemical Genetics - **207SG0202X**
- Clinical Cytogenetic - **207SC0300X**
- Clinical Genetics (M.D.) - **207SG0201X**
- Clinical Molecular Genetics - **207SG0203X**
- Molecular Genetic Pathology - **207SM0001X**
- Ph.D. Medical Genetics - **207SG0205X**
- Genetic Counselor, MS - **170300000X**

Beginning October 1, 2006, a new Health Insurance Claim Form that accommodates the reporting of NPI numbers will be put into effect. Therefore, you will want to have secured your NPI number by that time. We believe that with the information provided by CMS and/or your institution you should be able to complete the application process. However, if you find this to be inadequate, or have further questions, please feel free to contact ACMG.

ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting Schedule

****NEXT MONTH! NEXT MONTH! NEXT MONTH!****

March 23-26, 2006

Manchester Grand Hyatt

San Diego, California

****You can register on site! Visit www.acmg.net for more information!****

March 22-25, 2007

Renaissance Nashville Hotel & Nashville Convention Center

Nashville, Tennessee

March 13-16, 2008

Hyatt Regency Phoenix & Phoenix Convention Center

Phoenix, Arizona

Call for nomination of members of The International Standing Committee of Human Cytogenetic Nomenclature 2006-2011

The present Committee [Lynda Campbell, Christine Harrison, David Ledbetter, Albert Schinzel, Lisa Shaffer, Niels Tommerup (Chair) and Angela Vianna Morgante] was elected in 2001 at the Tenth International Congress of Human Genetics in Vienna. A new Committee needs to be elected for the next five year period 2006-2011. David Ledbetter, Niels Tommerup and Angela Vianna Morgante have served for the allowed two periods and cannot be re-elected. The Committee has adopted changes to its membership structure for the future which includes expansion of the number of members from seven to eleven to reflect better representation of the geographic distribution of cytogeneticists. The number of members of the new Committee will be three from North America, three from Europe, two from Asia, and one each from South-America, Africa, and Australia/New Zealand/Oceania. To facilitate continuity, the chairman of the new Committee will be elected by the old Committee amongst those who can serve for a second period. Lisa Shaffer, USA, has been elected as the new chairman for the 2006-2011 Committee and does therefore not appear on the ballot.

To simplify the voting procedure, and facilitate voting also by those not attending the International Congress of Human Genetics, the voting shall be by email or fax, so that the new Committee will have been elected prior to the Eleventh International Congress of Human Genetics in Brisbane, August 2006. Nominations for candidates including their name, affiliation, postal address and email address should be mailed to the secretary of the chairman at elin@imbg.ku.dk before February 15, 2006, after which the list of candidates will be published with the call for voting. Likewise, ballots for voting can be requested from the secretary at elin@imbg.ku.dk after February 15, 2006, by including your name, affiliation, postal address, email and fax. The ballots with voting procedures will then be emailed or faxed after April 1, 2006 to the requested address. All ballots must be received by the secretary on or before July 1, 2006 so that they can be counted before the August meeting. Instructions for returning the ballots will accompany the ballot requests.



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