



## **CMS Delays Enforcement of Health Plan Identifiers**

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced on October 31 that the agency would not enforce Health Plan Identifier requirements until further notice. The announcement came in response to a recommendation from the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS), which advises CMS on matters related to HIPAA Standard Transactions.

Health plans with annual receipts of \$5 million or less would have been required to obtain a Health Plan Identifier (HPID) by November 5, 2015. All covered entities would have been required to use the HPIDs to identify health plans in standard transactions by November 7, 2016.

The enforcement delay means health plans and other covered entities do not need to comply with these requirements until CMS provides additional guidance. This delay may be the first step in a CMS reconsideration of its approach to the HPID requirement.

According to the NCVHS, a national payer identifier developed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) is now widely used and integrated into all provider, payer and clearinghouse systems. Replacing the NAIC payer ID with the HPID would create significant disruption in the routing and processing of all administrative transactions, the Committee argued.

### **[CMS posting of enforcement delay](#)**