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Insurance Initiative Update: Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Code

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The Healing Touch Professional Association (HTPA) Insurance Initiative has applied to the National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) for a Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Code for Healing Touch Certified Practitioners (HTCPs). The Taxonomy Code acceptance process takes approximately six months to be reviewed for approval by a sub-committee and then submitted to the members at large for final approval. The NUCC's Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Code Set is updated and released twice a year on January 1st and July 1st. So the next time the code will be updated is July 2015. Once the HTCP Taxonomy Code has been approved by NUCC, we will provide details in the Healing Touch Community Newsletter about how to register to obtain a National Provider Identifier (NPI) number.

Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Codes are designed to categorize the type, classification, and/or specialization of health care providers. The Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Code Set allows a single provider (individual, group, or institution) to identify their specialty category. There may be one or more codes associated with each provider, such as Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Massage Therapist (LMT) in addition

to HTCP. If you are curious, the current code may be viewed online at <http://www.wpc-edi.com/reference>.

The acceptance of this code will allow HTCPs to obtain an NPI number, as well as, healthcare agencies that employ HTCPs regardless of other licenses or certifications the employee may have. This is important for four reasons: It gives information to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the number of HTCPs who see clients.

NPI numbers are needed in all Electronic Medical Record (EMR) documentation. It is a way for HTCPs and healthcare facilities, such as hospitals, nursing homes, hospices and clinics, to be able to bill Medicare and other insurance providers for Healing Touch using Form 1500. It will increase the exposure and credibility of Healing Touch.

A Review of NPI

The NPI is a standard unique identifier for health care providers and health plans assigned by the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). This identifier (or code) is required when billing for Medicare services, and is used by other payers, including commercial healthcare insurers. In some healthcare settings the NPI code is also used in Electronic Medical Records. In addition, the NPI code must be used in connection with any electronic transactions identified by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). More detailed information is below.

When applying for a NPI from the NPPES, healthcare providers must select the Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Code or code description that most closely describes their type/classification/specialization, and include that code or code description in the NPI application.

The purpose of the NPI is to uniquely identify a healthcare provider in standard transactions, such as healthcare claims. NPIs may also be used to identify healthcare providers in coordination of benefits between health plans, in patient medical record systems, in program integrity files, and in other ways.

What is next? The Insurance Initiative Committee is in the beginning phase of applying for a specific Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code classifier from the American Medical Association (AMA). We may be asking for your help in this process as we define all the steps needed to accomplish this goal. 