Obtaining an NPI Number

Tthe Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 mandated the adoption of standard and unique identifiers for healthcare providers and health plans. These identifiers are called the National Provider Identifier (NPI) standard. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) developed the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) to assign NPI numbers to individuals and healthcare providers. If you or the facility you work for has billed directly under your names, chances are you already have an NPI number. You can look up your individual NPI number on the NPPES website. If you don't already have one, you can apply for one here, as well. The CMS website also has additional education resources and FAQs regarding the use of your NPI number.