Glossary

TIN (Taxpayer Identification Number)

A tax-processing number used by the IRS, including:
- **Social Security Number (SSN):** For individuals (e.g., sole proprietors).
- **ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number):** For non-resident aliens or those ineligible for an SSN.
  Relevance: Required for Type 1 NPI applications when billing under a personal name.

EIN (Employer Identification Number)

A federal tax ID assigned to businesses (e.g., corporations, partnerships, LLCs).
Relevance: Required for Type 2 NPI applications for organizational billing.

Legacy Identifiers (UPIN, PIN, NSC)

Pre-NPI identifiers replaced by the NPI system:
- **UPIN (Unique Physician Identification Number):** Medicare's physician ID (retired in 2007).
- **PIN (Provider Identification Number):** Assigned by private insurers for claims.
- **NSC (National Supplier Clearinghouse Number):** For durable medical equipment (DME) suppliers.

NUCC (National Uniform Claim Committee)

The organization that standardizes healthcare data, including maintaining **taxonomy codes** (specialty classifications).
Relevance: Providers use NUCC's lookup tool to select their taxonomy code during NPI registration.

Credentialing

The process of verifying a provider's qualifications (e.g., licenses, certifications, education) to join insurance networks or hospital staff.
Relevance: NPIs are often required during credentialing to link providers to their verified data.

Clearinghouse

A third-party entity that processes and formats healthcare claims between providers and insurers.
Relevance: Clearinghouses use NPIs to ensure HIPAA compliance in electronic transactions.

Remittance Advice

A document from insurers explaining payment details for processed claims (e.g., reimbursements, denials).
Relevance: NPIs are included in remittance advice to identify the provider or organization paid.

Telehealth Platform

A digital service enabling remote healthcare delivery (e.g., virtual consultations).
Relevance: Telehealth providers often need NPIs for credentialing and billing.

Public Health Reporting

The submission of healthcare data (e.g., disease outbreaks, vaccination rates) to government agencies.
Relevance: NPIs help track which providers submitted reports or treated specific populations.

EFI Coordinator

A designated person in large organizations (e.g., hospitals) who manages **bulk NPI applications** via the Electronic File Interchange (EFI) system.

EHR (Electronic Health Record)

A digital version of a patient's medical history, accessible across healthcare settings.
Relevance: NPIs ensure accurate provider identification in EHR systems.

HIPAA-Regulated Transactions

Electronic exchanges of healthcare data (e.g., claims, eligibility checks) that must comply with HIPAA standards.
Relevance: NPIs are mandatory in these transactions to standardize provider identification.

CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

The federal agency overseeing Medicare, Medicaid, and the NPI system.
Relevance: CMS manages the NPPES portal and NPI Registry.

Deactivated NPI

An NPI that is no longer active due to retirement, practice closure, or disciplinary action.
Relevance: Providers must update their NPI status to avoid claim rejections.

Bulk Enumeration (EFI)

A method for large organizations to submit multiple NPI applications simultaneously via the Electronic File Interchange system.

Sole Proprietorship

A business structure where an individual provider operates under their personal name (no separate legal entity).
Relevance: Sole proprietors use a Type 1 NPI for billing.