

# Practitioner Support

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## NPI Number for Healing Touch

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*The Healing Touch Professional Association continues to support and sponsor the Healing Touch Insurance Initiative Committee (HT II). At present, the Committee is taking steps to apply for a Healing Touch National Provider Identifier (NPI) number of its own, as well as, apply for a Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code. The goal of achieving third party payment will undoubtedly take time to reach but the Committee is optimistic and has the blessing of Healing Touch Program.*

One key component necessary in reaching the goal of being covered by insurance/third party payers is obtaining an NPI Number. As the Insurance Initiative is sponsored by the Healing Touch Professional Association, we are working to have Healing Touch become the first Energy Medicine modality with an NPI Number. This experience will pave the way for other modalities to apply for their own numbers.

**NPI- National Provider Identifier** [www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov)

A National Provider Identifier or NPI is a unique 10-digit identification number issued to health care providers in the United States by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The NPI has replaced the unique provider identification number (UPIN) as the required identifier for Medicare services, and is used by other payers, including commercial health care insurers. The transition to the NPI was mandated as part of the Administrative Simplifications portion of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), and CMS began issuing NPIs in October 2006.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has developed the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) to assign these unique identifiers and the taxonomy numbers are made by the National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC). [taxonomy.nucc.org](http://taxonomy.nucc.org)

The Health Care Provider Taxonomy code set maintained by the NUCC is an external, non medical data code set designed for use in an electronic environment, specifically within the ASC X12N Health Care transactions. This includes the transactions mandated under HIPAA and the National Provider Identifier (NPI) application for enumeration. Effective 2001, the NUCC took over the administration of the code set. Ongoing duties, including processing taxonomy code requests and maintenance of the code set, fall under the NUCC Code Subcommittee.

The Health Care Provider Taxonomy code is a unique alphanumeric code, ten characters in length. The code set is structured into three distinct "Levels" including Provider Type, Classification, and Area of Specialization.

Currently, as an Energy Medicine practitioner, there is no way to register for an NPI number unless you already have a license such as nursing, massage, psychotherapy and/ or any other license that is in the current set of taxonomy codes. Even if you do have an assigned NPI number, there is no current way to indicate even a specialty such as Healing Touch in your NPI number identifier description. A *Specialist* subcategory exists but you must specify the license and the state in which it was issued.

The NPI Taxonomy codes have many categories, one is *Other Service Providers* and under this category are listed



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Acupuncturist, Naturopath etc. This could possibly be the category to include Healing Touch Certified Practitioner (or Certified Energy Practitioner). HTPA's Healing Touch Insurance Initiative Committee is working on the NUCC application to request an NPI Taxonomy Code for Healing Touch Certified Practitioners to use. It is required to have a NPI number in order to request third party payment for services.

If you have any information about this process that you could share with us please send an e-mail to Holli Brown at [holli.brown@live.com](mailto:holli.brown@live.com). 