

iProvider™ Global Identifier

Streamline Processes, Improve Efficiency



Highlights

For all providers and organizations:

- Provides timely, real-time contact information for provider-to-provider clinical decision making
- Enables e-communication between providers and organizations
- Electronic discharge summary distribution
- Electronic provider notification distribution
- Automated health alerts
- Electronic referrals

For federal and state agencies:

- Meets operational information needs
- Checks eligibility and status
- Integrates with state-based clinical system
- Delivers electronic health record implementations



As an essential component of administrative simplification, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) recognized that individuals, such as physicians, need a unique identifier. Being able to identify them accurately is critical to both delivery and administration of health care services. The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is aimed at creating a form of identification for standard transactions, superseding previous forms of provider identification including the Unique Physician Identification Number (UPIN), Medicaid and Medicare Provider Numbers, and others.

iProvider — The NPI solution

The problem is that, without proper preparation for implementing NPI, organizations may not be reimbursed for the services they provide, and businesses could lose valuable revenue. The NPI compliance date is fast approaching, and health care entities must act now to avoid last-minute preparations.

To help health care customers rapidly and cost-effectively meet NPI requirements, Sun developed the iProvider™ Global Identifier composite application, built with the Sun Java™ Composite Application Platform Suite (CAPS). Enabling broad access to the right information at the right time, Sun™ technologies are built upon open standards and designed for interoperability. With iProvider, Sun can help health care customers streamline administrative processes and improve efficiency — key to equal participation and access to quality health care.

NPI is a big project, but it will bring down the cost of administrative operations and reduce complexity when tracking providers who practice in multiple locations, while helping protect IT infrastructure. By leveraging Sun's health care solution for intelligently cross-matching current provider identifiers to a new unique identifier, the health care system should reap many benefits, including improved quality of care and lowered administrative costs.

Why iProvider?

Designed to simplify provider interaction with the health system by creating an accurate source of provider contact details, iProvider accurately references and identifies providers in clinical and business communication.

iProvider can also help payers, providers, pharmacy chains, and government organizations prepare for NPI implementation. With proven, intelligent cross-matching and integration technology built on Sun Java CAPS, iProvider is a packaged composite application solution.

By using iProvider, health care organizations can cleanse, standardize, match, and integrate disparate provider databases to create a single record. iProvider allows organizations to leverage existing legacy databases with the completeness and accuracy required to meet NPI compliance.

iProvider can also deliver positive outcomes for payers, providers, pharmacy chains, government organizations, and the health care industry as a whole — ultimately eliminating the health care digital divide.

Business benefits

iProvider helps health care customers address NPI requirements in a flexible, robust environment that is based upon Sun Java CAPS Service Oriented Architecture (SOA). With this functionality comes the ability to maintain an organization's IT investments while augmenting existing capabilities. That is because iProvider can integrate into an organization's current processes without requiring a 'rip and replace' of computer systems.

Dynamic functionality

iProvider enables a single, unique identifier for each provider and Institution, which is required for all standard transactions. Because the NPI does not change with moves or switches in specialty, iProvider enhances the continuity of a unique health care identifier throughout a physician's career.

Another issue is that many providers routinely bill under names and identifiers not generally known to their patients, making validation and verification of services difficult. With iProvider, "intelligence-free" identifiers not only have the potential to reduce fraud and abuse within health care programs, but can also provide better patient identification of services and providers for service validation.

In addition, iProvider can help health care customers replace the use of almost all legacy provider identifiers (such as UPIN, Medicaid and Medicare Provider Numbers, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Numbers) in standard transactions. This dynamic functionality helps organizations to simplify transactions, including claims and coordination of benefits (COB), resulting in significant cost savings. Further, the iProvider

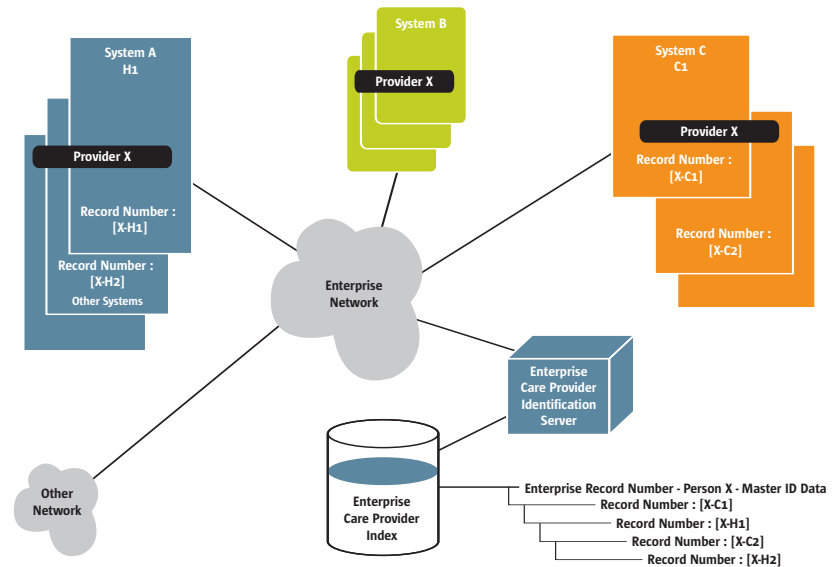


Figure 1. iProvider Architecture

database utilizes specific business rules regarding payments to providers that are required by payer organizations.

The Sun Java™ Composite Application Platform Suite

Rapidly changing business conditions and objectives demand business agility. When a new business demand such as NPI arrives, IT must invariably respond by building new custom applications, licensing and implementing new packaged applications, or extending and repurposing existing applications. To deliver value and business agility, IT needs a new set of tools and an approach that enables reuse of existing IT assets, while empowering rapid development of new functionality needed by the business.

Sun Java CAPS is the sixth suite of the Sun Java Enterprise System. With this offering, Sun brings to market one of the most comprehensive

and productive SOA and integration platforms available. Users of the suite can deliver immediate business value through the construction of composite applications, including iProvider Global Identifier, that reuse existing IT application assets in combination with newly created functionality.

The Sun Java Enterprise System

The Sun Java Enterprise System is a radical approach that changes forever the way businesses acquire, develop, and manage software. Only Sun has the experience and the end-to-end portfolio to deliver such a unique and industry-revolutionizing strategy. With the Java Enterprise System, network services and critical business applications are up and running faster, easier, and at a lower cost than ever before, so you can focus on innovation, competition, and bottom-line results.