



A Student's Guide to NPI

As an athletic training student, you may or may not be familiar with the National Provider Identifier (NPI). As a student of health care, and on your way to becoming a health care professional, you should not only know what an NPI is, but should also have one.

What is an NPI?

A NPI is a unique 10-digit identification number used in standard health care transactions. It is issued to ***health care professionals*** and covered entities that transmit standard HIPAA electronic transactions (e.g., electronic claims and claim status inquiries). The NPI fulfills a requirement of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Covered entities under HIPAA are required by regulation to use NPIs to identify health care providers in HIPAA standard transactions.

Why should you get an NPI?

- Be a leader! There are approximately 10,500 Athletic Training students in the US, and only 14 in the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES).
- Improves recognition as health care professionals - across all settings
- As of June 2014, it is a requirement to serve on any NATA committees
- It is mandated by many employers already
- Increase impact on CMS, national payers and federal legislators
- Insurance companies, vendors, clearinghouses access the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) data on a regular basis to ensure they have updated contact information for providers, clinics and hospitals.
- You only have to register once! This will be your NPI throughout your entire career.

Applying

- While applying for your NPI, you must indicate your taxonomy code.
- The Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Code Set is a hierarchical set that includes codes, descriptions and definitions. They are designed to categorize the type, classification, and/or specialization of health care providers.
- As a student, you will enter 2 Taxonomy Codes to indicate you are a student of athletic training.

- 390200000X Student in an Organized Health Care Education/Training Program
- 2255A2300X - SPECIALIST/TECHNOLOGIST - ATHLETIC TRAINER
- Visit [NATA.org/NPI](https://www.nata.org/NPI) for a step-by-step instructions on how to apply.

After Graduation

Upon graduation and the receipt your certification (and state license if available), simply log into your NPPES account and remove the 390200000X – Student taxonomy code and set your primary taxonomy code as “255A2300X – Athletic Trainer”.