

National Drug Code (NDC) Fact Sheet

2008 Medical Billing Requirements

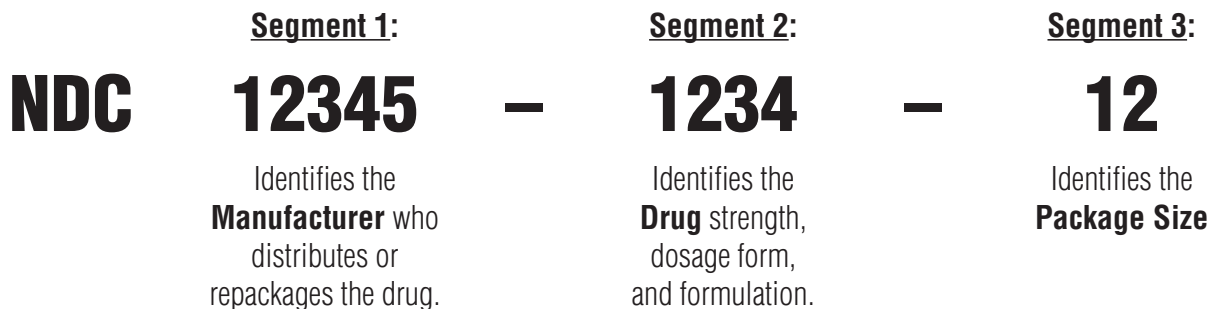
Effective January 1, 2008, the DRA requires submission of National Drug Code (NDC) numbers with J codes on all paper (CMS-1500) and electronic (837P) claims. Failure to use the correct NDC number on a claim could result in a denied or delayed claim.

Note: Facilities using the UB-04 claim form are excluded from this requirement, except when billing dialysis services.

The National Drug Code (NDC) Number

The NDC number is a universal identifier for human drugs. It represents a system by which the manufacturer, drug, dosage form, strength, and package size are numerically expressed.

This identifier may consist of numbers 0 to 9, which are separated by dashes into three distinct segments:



Common Features of NDC Numbers

NDC numbers are:

- **Unique to each package size.** For example, the NDC code for a box of 12 units will only differ from the NDC code for a box of 10 units by the last two digits. The first two segments of both NDC codes will be the same.
- **Preceded by the letters NDC.**
- **Located on all labeled medication dose units.** They may be copied off the unit container for accurate billing of drug and dose size.
- **Generally located in the upper right or left hand region of the drug label.**

Exceptions to NDC Requirement

- Some radiopharmaceuticals or radioactive isotope image enhancement drugs may and may not have an NDC number.
- Some containers may also have bar codes with numbers. This is not the NDC number, unless the digits are also preceded by the letters NDC.

For More Information

Please visit the FDA (Federal Drug Administration) web site at www.fda.gov/cder/ndc/index.htm.