

The Unique Nurse Identifier (UNI)



A **UNI** is a distinct digital representation of the nurse's identity throughout many computer systems.



PROVIDES SAFETY FOR PATIENTS AND NURSES

Linking a permanent and unique ID with a nurse reduces the risk of health care fraud, optimizes the nurse's expertise and achievements across health care systems, and protects the nurse's personally identifiable information (PII).



ESTABLISHES THE TRUE VALUE OF NURSING

Capturing nurse-specific work data identifies and documents nursing's contribution to care. Data sets can be leveraged for research, nurse workforce data reconciliation, streamlining license status verification, process improvements, financial transparency and education.

What is the NCSBN ID?



NCSBN

The NCSBN ID is a publicly available UNI that is automatically generated and maintained by NCSBN for an individual nurse (APRN, RN, LPN/VN) throughout their practice and education journey. It is never reassigned to any other nurse.



All licensed nurses have a unique NCSBN ID that is available free of charge to the nurse as well as any organization through the Nursys® system.



Nurses can find their NCSBN ID by looking themselves up in the primary source equivalent Nursys system where all the U.S. nursing regulatory bodies share their jurisdictions' nurse licensure and disciplinary data.



Organizations can implement secure file transfer and Application Programming Interface (API) methods to receive up-to-date nurse license status including the NCSBN ID of each of their nurses.



What is the NPI?



The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is an identifier issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Health care providers use the NPI to bill Medicare, Medicaid and many private payors.



The NPI is an element in a claim, and payors and policymakers often analyze claims in aggregate to inform their financial and quality assessments. The NPI shows the impact of nursing care and enables systems to better value nurses.



APRNs can register for an individual NPI even if they currently bill under their employer. This allows the individual tracking of the APRN instead of work done by other providers in the practice and sets the APRN up to bill directly if they open their own practice in the future.



In most cases RNs cannot currently bill directly for services; however, RNs are allowed to register for an NPI and should join the campaign to have RN care truly valued. It is free to register for an NPI. Registration resources can be found here.

The NCSBN ID and NPI can work together.

Both identifiers offer different insights around the value of nurses' work. The NPI provides data that show how health systems structure payment and investment decisions made about the health care workforce. The NCSBN ID facilitates the aggregation of nurse data needed for research around nursing practice and education. These two identifiers together could modernize reimbursement systems, expand cost transparency and better demonstrate the impact of nursing practice on patient outcomes. Utilizing both numbers has the potential to transform benefits to patients, the nursing profession, and how health care employers engage nurses and more broadly the nursing workforce.