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## What is an NPI Taxonomy Code?

All clinicians are assigned a unique National Provider Identifier number (NPI) through the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) website.

NPI numbers are connected to various NPI taxonomy codes. A taxonomy code is a 10-character code that designates your classification and specialization, e.g. LMFT, ASW, MD, CADC.

For more information about NPI number and taxonomy codes, see Appendix 3.

### Why does my NPI taxonomy code need to be accurate?

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) requires accuracy in order to determine billing rates and check whether or not a clinician is providing services within their scope of practice. If you are a clinician that provides direct services, you will most likely have an NPI number and taxonomy code already, but if not, you will need to sign up with NPPES to be assigned one. See the next section on how to find your NPI number and taxonomy code(s).

**If your Taxonomy code needs updating, see the information below.** For more information about this topic, see **Appendix 1** at the end of this document.

## **Overview of Procedure for Updating Taxonomy Code**

#### CHECK BEFORE YOU START: Check your taxonomy code on the NPPES website and in Avatar.

STATUS	What to do
If NPPES is correct, i.e., your taxonomy code matches your license.	You are done!
If NPPES is not correct.	Update your Taxonomy code and send a message to <a href="mailto:askqi@santacruzcountyca.gov">askqi@santacruzcountyca.gov</a> to report you have updated.

#### **OVERVIEW (STEPS):**

- 1. Login to the NPPES website. <u>https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov</u>
- 2. Navigate the website to the area where you can modify (or add) your taxonomy code. (You may also update other information such as your name or the company/agency you work for.)
- 3. Click Select Add Taxonomy to add a new taxonomy, or click the pencil icon to edit.
- 4. Enter/Update your license information, and other information, if needed.
- 5. Click Save
- 6. Go to the Submission Page. Read through and then check the Certification Statement box at the bottom of the page.
- 7. Send a message to <u>askqi@santacruzcountyca.gov</u> letting them know you have made a change to your taxonomy code.

Check your taxonomy code to see if it is correct first. You may not need to change it.

If your taxonomy code is correct on the NPPES verification website (different than the main website), then you do not need to update it. Follow the steps below to check.

If your taxonomy code is wrong, see the next section.

#### STEPS:

- 1. Navigate to the NPPES NPI lookup page. https://npiregistry.cms.hhs.gov/search
- 2. Enter your name and click SEARCH.

NPPES NPI Registry	NPPES Dov	wnloads API Help

#### Search NPI Records

NPI Number	Any	ype	~	Taxondm	y Description	
for individuals						
Provider First Nam	e			Provider	Last Name	
Nancy				Mast		
for organizations Organization Name (LBN, DBA, Forme	e r LBN or Other I	Name)		Authorize Name	ed Official First	Authorized Official Las Name
City	State		Country		Postal Code	Address Type
	Any	~	Any	~		Any
	to search for Ex	act Matche	es only 🕔			

3. Look at the taxonomy code at the bottom of the page. It should match your license/registration.

Taxonomy	Primary Taxonomy	Selected Taxonomy
	Yes	106H00000X - Marriage & Family Therapist

#### If you are not sure what your Taxonomy code should be, see Appendix 2 at the end of this document.

If you are still not sure, talk to your supervisor, or send a message to askqi@santacruzcountyca.gov.

**If your taxonomy code is correct, but** *Avatar* **is wrong**, send a message to <u>askqi@santacruzcountyca.gov</u> to have this corrected. See Appendix 4 for instructions that show you how to check.

# START HERE TO CHANGE YOUR TAXONOMY CODE

### STEP 1: Log Into the NPPES Website

NOTE: If you do not know your username or password for the NPPES website, you will have to retrieve the username and reset the password, which can take some time.

- 1. Go to <a href="https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/#/">https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/#/</a>
- 2. Type in your User ID and Password, and then click "SIGN IN."



## STEP 2: Update Your Provider Profile

1. From the Main Page, scroll down to the to the Manage Provider Information section.

Manage Provider Info You currently have acce icon to expand the prov	rmation ess to the NPIs associa rider and view all NPIs	ted with th associated	e providers l d with the pro
New If you would like	to upload documenta	ation relate	d to an NPI a
Please scroll to the	he right using the	scroll b	ar at the bo
<b>T</b> Filter	0		Se
Action	NPI	Туре 🔺	TIN
Q / 🦘 🚔	1013112515	\$	XXX-XX-5519

2. Click on the Pencil Icon to edit.



3. Fill in all of the required questions (red \*).

Pro	vider Profile				
* Indicates Require	ed fields.				
Note: Fields with	🔒 icon will NOT be publicly av	ailable			
Provider N	ame Information:				
Prefix:	* First:		Middle:		* Last:
~					
Credential(s):(MD,	, DO, etc.)				
MFT					
Other Name:(If ap	plicable)				
Prefix:	First:		Middle:	Last:	
~					
Type of Other Nan	ne:	Credential(s):(MD, [	00, etc.)		
		~			
Other Iden	tifying Information	n:			
* Date of Birth: 🔒		* Social Security Nu	ımber(SSN): 🔒		
		<ul> <li>Production paintals</li> </ul>			
* State of Birth:(If	U.S.) 🔒		Country of Birth: 🔒		
CA - CALIFORNIA	A I	~	US - United States		~

- 4. Confirm your answers.
- 5. At the bottom of the page, click the NEXT button to save and go to the next page.



## STEP 3: Update Address Information

- 1. Navigate to the Address page
- 2. In the Practice Location section, click the pencil icon to edit.

<b>Business Maili</b>	ing Address (Co	rrespondence Ad	dress)			
This is the address (c	an be a Post Office Bo	x) where we can contact	you directly to	resolve any issues that ma	ay arise durin	g our re
United States						
Phone: (831) 454-517	79					
EDIT BUSINESS MAI	LING ADDRESS					
EDIT BUSINESS MAI	ILING ADDRESS					
EDIT BUSINESS MAI	ILING ADDRESS					
Practice Locat	ion (only one r	equired)				
Practice Locat	ion (only one re	equired)		and Multiple Loosting of		hutaal
Practice Locat	illing ADDRESS	equired) ost Office Box) where serv	vices are rende	red. Multiple locations car	n be entered,	but onl
Practice Locat This is the physical ac Please scroll	tion (only one red ddress (cannot be a Po I to the right using	equired) ost Office Box) where serv g the scroll bar at th	rices are rende e bottom of	red. Multiple locations car this table to see all a	n be entered, available c	but onl olumn
Practice Locat This is the physical ar Please scroll	tion (only one red ddress (cannot be a Po I to the right using	equired) ost Office Box) where sen g the scroll bar at th	vices are rende e bottom of	red. Multiple locations car this table to see all a	n be entered, available c	but onl olumn
Practice Locat This is the physical ac Please scroll	tion (only one re ddress (cannot be a Pe I to the right using	equired) ost Office Box) where serv g the scroll bar at th	vices are rende e bottom of	red. Multiple locations car this table to see all a	n be entered, available C	but onl olumn
Practice Locat This is the physical ac Please scroll	tion (only one red ddress (cannot be a Po l to the right using Primary Location	equired) ost Office Box) where serv g the scroll bar at th Address	rices are rende e bottom of City	red. Multiple locations car this table to see all a State/Province/Region	n be entered, available co Country	but onl olumn Office
Practice Locat This is the physical ar Please scroll Filter Actions	tion (only one re ddress (cannot be a Po I to the right using Primary Location	equired) ost Office Box) where serv g the scroll bar at th Address	vices are rende e bottom of City	red. Multiple locations car this table to see all a State/Province/Region	n be entered, available co Country	but onl olumn Office
Practice Locat This is the physical ar Please scroll Filter	illing ADDRESS	equired) ost Office Box) where serv g the scroll bar at th Address	vices are rende e bottom of City Santa Cruz	red. Multiple locations car this table to see all a State/Province/Region	n be entered, available c Country	but onl olumn Office

4. At the bottom of the page, click the NEXT button to save and go to the next page.



# **STEP 4: Endpoint for Exchanging Healthcare Information (optional)**

This page is optional. Click NEXT to skip.

NEXT >

NEXT >

## **STEP 5:** Other Identifiers (optional)

This page is optional. Click NEXT to skip.

## STEP 6: Change Taxonomy

Look near the bottom of the page, for your current Taxonomy code(s).

Taxonomy rovider's Taxonomy Informatic	on.				
O INFO: Taxonomy					
The taxonomy fields have be	en cleared.				
Indicates Required fields					
You are required to identify at l	least one taxonomy to associat	te with your NPI. If you identify more t	han one. vou must identi	fy which one is the primary taxon	omy. Provider Taxonomy code
National Uniform Claim Comm	ittee Website.			,	,
o enter a taxonomy code, star	t by entering either the taxono	omy code, classification code, or speci	alty in the Choose Taxon	omy Filter box. All taxonomies con	taining the data you enter wil
llowing you to select the appr	ropriate one. Once you have se	lected the appropriate Taxonomy cod	e, the corresponding field	ds below the search box will be po	opulated.
Choose Taxonomy Filter: Q					
Filter by Taxonomy name or Taxo	onomy code.				
* Choose Taxonomy:					
Choose Taxonomy				~	
* Classification Name/Specializati	ion:	License Number:	Stat	e Issued:	
				~	
Please scroll to the right	ht using the scroll bar at	the bottom of this table to see	all available colum	ns and actions	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	2				
<b>T</b> Filter	0				
Primary Taxonomy	Taxonomy Code	Taxonomy Type	Group Type	License Number	State
	106H00000X	Marriage & Family Therapist		36494	CA

#### STEPS:

- 1. Type a few words to describe your license/registration.
- 2. Click the desired code from the list.

3. Click SAVE.

Taxonomy
Provider's Taxonomy Information.
INFO: Taxonomy
The taxonomy fields have been cleared.
* Indicates Required fields.
You are required to identify at least one taxonomy to associate with your NPI. If you identify more than one, you must identify which one is the primary taxonomy. Provider Taxonomy codes and their description can be found
National Uniform Claim Committee Website.
To enter a taxonomy code, start by entering either the taxonomy code, classification code, or specialty in the Choose Taxonomy Filter box. All taxonomies containing the data you enter will display in the dropdown Choose Ta allowing you to select the appropriate one. Once you have selected the appropriate Taxonomy code, the corresponding fields below the search box will be populated.
Choose Taxonomy Filter: Q Type a few words that describe your license or registration, e.g. "social work"
Social work
Choose Taxonomy:
104100000X-Social Worker 2 Click the desired taxonomy code to enter.
Choose Taxonomy
104100000X - Social Worker
Landsonova social information and an and a social socicial social social social social social
Click SAVE.

4. If you have more than one Taxonomy code, select a "Primary Taxonomy" by clicking the check box of the row with the correct Taxonomy.

Please scroll to the right using the scroll bar at the bottom of this table to see all available columns and actions

<b>T</b> Filter	Make sure t code is chec	hat your current Taxonomy ked before saving.		
Primary Taxonomy	Taxonomy Code	Taxonomy Type	Group Type	License
	106H00000X	Marriage & Family Therapist		36494
	101YM0800X	Counselor - Mental Health		

5. At the bottom of the page, click the NEXT button to save and go to the next page.



## STEP 7: Update Contact Info

Contact Infor	rmation (onl	y one require	ed) the section can be ent	ne email listed h you forget your	<ul> <li>NPPES will send ere. Your phone nu login information.</li> </ul>	a confirmation email umber may be require
Actions P	Primary Contact 🔺	Name	Credential(s)	Title/Position	Telephone Number	Contact Person Email
<u>/</u>		Nancy Mast	MFT		8314544170	nancy.mast@health.co.sar cruz.ca.us

After verifying that your contact information is correct, click NEXT to go to the next page.

## STEP 8: Error Check Page

Look for any red sections. Correct as needed and then click NEXT at the bottom of the page. This will take you to the Submission page. (If there is an error, the light green areas below will be red.)

INTRODUCTION	PROFILE	ADDRESS	HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE			CONTACT INFO	7 ERROR CHECK	8 SUBMISSION
								100% application completed
A Cerr	or Check							
Note: Please click New Please click Step 1: Provider P	the NEXT button to submit k the VIEW button to review	your application. which details of this info	rmation will be public after you sub	mit. VIEW	Click review her information in ea	to confirm the ach section is correct.		
-	COMPLETED: Profile No Errors Found						_	REVIEW
Step 2: Address								
1	COMPLETED: Address							REVIEW

## **Submission Page**

1. Read the disclaimer and then click the checkbox at the bottom of the page to certify that you are the person who updated this information.

Submission Certification				
After reading the terms and conditions listed below, check the box at the bottom of this page then click "Submit" to submit your application.				
* Indicates Required fields.				
<ul> <li>I have read the contents of the application and the information contained herein is true, correct and complete. If I become aware that any information in this application is not true, correct, or complete, I agree to notify the <u>NPI</u> Enumerator of this fact immediately.</li> </ul>				
<ul> <li>I authorize the <u>NPI</u> Enumerator to verify the information contained herein. I agree to keep the NPPES updated with any changes to data listed on this application form within 30 days of the effective date of the change.</li> </ul>				
I have read and understand the Privacy Act Statement.				
<ul> <li>I have read and understand the Penalties for Falsifying Information on the <u>NPI</u> Application / Update Form as stated in this application. I am aware that falsifying information will result in fines and/or imprisonment.</li> </ul>				
Penalties for Falsifying Information:				
18 U.S.C. 1001 authorizes criminal penalties against an individual who in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly or willfully falsifier representations, or makes ar offenders are subject to fines 18 U.S.C. 3571(d) also prinor sentencing statut.				
ertify that this form is being completed by, or on behalf of, a health care provider as defined at 45 CFR § 160.103.				

2. Click the blue SUBMIT, to go to the Confirmation page.

## STEP 9: Confirmation Page

You may print a copy of this page for your records, or at least note the tracking number. NPPES will also send an email confirming your update(s).

<b>hank you.</b> Your application will b	pe processed. Your Tracking numb
ou have successfully submitted y	your Change Request to the NPI application.
n Email confirmation has been s	ent to the contact person(s) listed on this application. Please be sure to check the "iunk" folder.
f you have any questions regardi	ng this application or if a designated contact person doesn't receive the provider's NPI via email within 15 working days, please
efer to the FAQ Menu.	
f the submitted NPI application o	ontains no errors or additional verifications, the Note the tracking number. nin the next 24 hours. If additional
verification is required, processin	g may take up to 30 days.
Provider Nan	
Contact Pers	
Primary Prac	a Cruz County Behavioral Health, 1400 Emeline Ave Bldg K, Santa Cruz CA 95060-1976, US
SSN: XXX-XX-	
Date Submiti	
Contact Email: nancy.mast	@health.co.santa-cruz.ca.us
	re click:
o print this page for your referen	

## **APPENDIX 1: Taxonomy codes and accuracy**

State regulations require updating and maintaining practitioner credentials, licenses and taxonomy code information so that they are accurate.

On the state side, the California DHCS (Department of Health Care Services) uses NPPES to verify active NPI numbers and taxonomy codes. The information found on NPPES (taxonomy, license) is self-reported (updated and maintained by the provider or clinician) and is critical for assigning discipline and category (MHRS, LMFT, CADC, etc...) for coverage in County systems.

The importance of this data accuracy is multi-fold. Accurate credentials are required to identify and confirm practitioners' training and status. Practitioner disciplines are used within the County Avatar system to populate the service choices available to practitioners (what service codes you can use). Also, practitioner taxonomy is the basis for billing rate and DHCS claim approval (how we get paid).

In 2023, DHCS split of the 101Y taxonomy. 101Y comprises a range of practitioners generally representing a high level of training and education. DHCS has separated out 101YA (breaking from the planned use of only the first 4 characters of the taxonomy code) into a different discipline, AOD counselors, rather than the related discipline LPCC (Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors). There is a specific rate difference and service code availability between these 2 disciplines. The descriptions for the 101Y range overlap and can easily be interchanged. It is vital that we are able to accurately report practitioner taxonomy in the Avatar system so that the full range of appropriate service codes are available to practitioners.

**2025 Update:** In 2025, DHCS again made changes to allowable codes for certain types of unlicensed counselor, most notably, they removed 172V00000X (Other Service Providers - Community Health Worker), and 171M00000X - Case Manager/Care Coordinator.

	New Code	Prior Code (Do Not Use)
MHRS (Certified Mental Health Rehab Specialist)	225400000X (Respiratory, Developmental, Rehabilitative and Restorative Service Providers - Rehabilitation Practitioner)	171M00000X (Case Manager/Care Coordinator to 225400000X)
Unlicensed MH counselors who do not have an MHRS (not SUD counselors)	372600000X (Nursing Service Related Providers - Adult Companion)	172V00000X (Other Service Providers - Community Health Worker)

Unfortunately, the available codes for these types of clinical staff do not have descriptions that accurately describe the work of MH staff. Of the allowable codes, the *best* matches are as below.

## **APPENDIX 2: Common Taxonomy codes for BH Providers**

These lists are not exclusive. If you find another taxonomy code that you think applies, check with the County QI Dept to see if it will work. <u>askqi@santacruzcountyca.gov</u>

PSYCHIATRY	
Description	Number
Addiction Medicine	2084A0401X
Addiction Psychiatry	2084P0802X
Forensic Psychiatry	2084F0202X
Geriatric Psychiatry	2084P0805X
Psychiatry	2084P0800X
DO/Family Medicine	207Q00000X

NURSE PRACTITIONER, RN, MA	
Description	Number
Registered Nurse	163W00000X
Addiction Reg Nurse	163WA0400X
Lic. Vocational Nurse	164X00000X
Lic. Psychiatric Tech	1647G00000X
Psychiatric MH Nurse	163WP0808X
Nurse Practitioner	363L00000X
Medical Assistant - Certified	101Y99993L

OTHER LICENSED CLINICAL STAFF				
Description	Number	Definition		
Marriage and Family Therapist	106H00000X	Use for LMFT and AMFT		
Clinical Social Worker	1041C0700X	Use for ASW and LCSW		
Social Worker	104100000X	Use for ASW and LCSW		
Professional Clinical Counselor	101YP2500X	Use for APCC and LPCC		
Psychologist	103T00000X			
Addiction Psychologist	103TA0400X			
Clinical Psychologist	103TC0700X			
Counseling Psychologist	103TC1900X			
Occupational Therapist	225XM0800X			

#### **COUNSELOR CODES**

Type of Counselor	Preferred Taxonomy Code	Also Acceptable as the Taxonomy Code (but not preferred)*
CADC (SUD Counselor)	101YA0400X - Addiction (Substance Use Disorder) Counselor	171M00000X - Case Manager/Care Coordinator
Other SUD counselors (e.g. SUDRC, RATC)	171M00000X - Case Manager/Care Coordinator	101YA0400X - Addiction (Substance Use Disorder) Counselor
Unlicensed MH counselors who do not have an MHRS (not for SUD counselors)	NEW CODE 372600000X (Nursing Service Related Providers - Adult Companion) (California DHCS changed the allowed code for this category from 172V00000X (Other Service Providers - Community Health Worker) to 372600000X in 2025.)	NEW CODE 372600000X (Nursing Service Related Providers - Adult Companion) (California DHCS changed the allowed code for this category from 172V00000X (Other Service Providers - Community Health Worker) to 372600000X in 2025.)
MHRS (Certified Mental Health Rehab Specialist)	NEW CODE 225400000X (Respiratory, Developmental, Rehabilitative and Restorative Service Providers - Rehabilitation Practitioner) (California DHCS changed the allowed code for this category from 171M00000X (Case Manager/Care Coordinator) to 225400000X in 2025.	NEW CODE 225400000X (Respiratory, Developmental, Rehabilitative and Restorative Service Providers - Rehabilitation Practitioner) (California DHCS changed the allowed code for this category from 171M00000X (Case Manager/Care Coordinator) to 225400000X in 2025.
Certified Peer Specialists	175T00000X (Peer Specialist) (Must have certificate)	175T00000X (Peer Specialist) (Must have certificate)
	Note: Do not use 101Y00000X – Counselor, or 101Y0800X which are reserved for certain masters level licenses.	*If the clinician already has a taxonomy code in this column, you do not have to change it, but if this is a new code, use the code in the Preferred Taxonomy Code column.

## **APPENDIX 3: About NPI Numbers and Taxonomy Codes**

The NPI (National Provider Identifier) number and its associated Taxonomy Code are required for all users who are practitioners, that is, provide direct services like therapy, counseling, case management, and medical services. In addition, the Taxonomy code for a clinician must accurately represent their license or registration.

Your NPI number is unique to you. No two clinicians have the same NPI number.

A taxonomy code is a 10-character code that describes your classification and specialization. More than one clinician can have the same taxonomy code. For example, all Marriage and Family Therapists have this code: 106H00000X (Behavioral Health + Social Service Providers - Marriage + Family Therapist)

As practitioners move through their careers, taxonomy codes might change. For example, a user might have a "counselor" taxonomy code initially. The user then goes to graduate school and becomes an associate, at which point the NPI registration will need to be updated to reflect the new license.

This link provides more information about NPI numbers. <u>https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-</u> Guidance/Administrative-Simplification/NationalProvidentStand

This link provides more information about taxonomy codes. <u>https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/Taxonomy</u>



To learn more about Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) click here

To learn more shout how to apply for an NDI click hore

### **APPENDIX 4: How to Check Your Taxonomy Code in Avatar**

Avatar must have the correct Taxonomy code. It must match your NPPES Taxonomy code.

Use the **Practitioner Information report** to see what Taxonomy Code is in Avatar, and whether or not it matches NPPES.

	1 Check your name here.	Practitioner Information	Practitioner			
	2 Click "Process."	Process	☐ TEST,DOCTOR (006430) ✓ TEST,FRED (006000) ☐ TESTCLINICIAN,CMH (000020) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐			
	<b>3</b> Is the highlighted information (below) correct? ♥					
Practitioner Information						
Staff ID Sta 001885 JEN	aff Name Practitioner Category Di NNIFER, JASON 17 LMFT	scipline <u>Category</u> 07 MFT 18 Lic Marriag	Taxonomy Practitioner Cr. e and Fam Ther (L 106H00000X 25 LMFT	edentials NPI 1234567890		

If NPPES is correct, but the Taxonomy code in Avatar does not match, send a message to <u>askqi@santacruzcountyca.gov</u> to request an update to your Avatar account.