

National Drug Codes (NDC)

The NDC, or National Drug Code, is a unique 10-digit, 3-segment number. It is a universal product identifier for human drugs in the United States. The code is present on all nonprescription (OTC) and prescription medication packages and inserts in the US.

The 3 segments of the NDC identify the labeler, the product, and the commercial package size.

- The first set of numbers in the NDC identifies the labeler (manufacturer, re-packager, or distributor).
- The second set of numbers is the product code, which identifies the specific strength, dosage form (i.e., capsule, tablet, liquid) and formulation of a drug for a specific manufacturer.
- The third set is the package code, which identifies package sizes and types. The labeler code is assigned by the FDA, while the product and package code are assigned by the labeler.

NDC Reporting Guidelines

An NDC is required for pharmaceuticals that are dispensed from a pharmacy and physician-administered drugs in an office/clinic (i.e. FQHC/RHCs, dialysis facilities) or outpatient facility/hospital setting.

- Provider must submit an **11-digit National Drug Code** (NDC) associated with the administered drug.

Generally the NDC number on the package is a 10 digit number and must be expanded to 11 digits by inserting a “0” in the appropriate spot.

- NDC codes should be reported according to the format set out by the National Drug Code Directory.
- NDC codes contain 3 segments each with a set number of characters.
- NDC codes MUST be billed with the N4 qualifier before the 11 digit NDC code, when billing on a paper claim

10-Digit Format on Package	10-Digit Format Example	11-Digit Format	11-Digit Format Example
4-4-2	9999-9999-99	5-4-2	09999-9999-99
5-3-2	99999-999-99	5-4-2	99999-0999-99
5-4-1	99999-9999-9	5-4-2	99999-9999-09

If the NDC is not submitted in the correct format, the claim will be denied.

Placement of an NDC when filing a paper claim:

NDC should be entered in the shaded sections of item 24A through 24G.

To enter NDC information, begin at 24A by entering the qualifier N4 and then the 11 digit NDC information.

Example of entering the identifier N4 and the NDC number on the CMS 1500 claim form:

N4 qualifier		NDC Quantity																	
11 digit NDC		NDC Unit Qualifier																	
24. A. DATE(S) OF SERVICE				B. PLACE OF SERVICE		C. EMG	D. PROCEDURES, SERVICES, OR SUPPLIES (Explain Unusual Circumstances)				E. DIAGNOSIS POINTER	F. \$ CHARGES		G. DAYS OR UNITS	H. EPSDT Family Plan	I. ID. QUAL.	J. RENDERING PROVIDER ID. #		
MM	DD	YY	MM	DD	YY														
10	01	05	10	01	05	11			J0400				1	250	00	40	N	G2	12345678901
																			0123456789

2. NDC on UB-04

- NDC should be entered in Form Locator 43 in the Revenue Description Field.
- Report the N4 qualifier in the first two (2) positions, left-justified.
 - Do not enter spaces
 - Enter the 11 character NDC number in the 5-4-2 format (no hyphens).
 - Do not use 9999999999 for a compound medication, bill each drug as a separate line item with its appropriate NDC

Immediately following the last digit of the NDC (no delimiter), enter the Unit of Measurement Qualifier.

- F2 – International Unit
- GR – Gram
- ML – Milliliter
- UN – Unit

- Immediately following the Unit of Measure Qualifier, enter the unit quantity with a floating decimal for fractional units limited to 3 digits (to the right of the decimal).
 - Any unused spaces for the quantity are left blank.

- A complete list of NDC codes and additional information can be found at:

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/informationondrugs/ucm142438.htm>

Or

http://www.cms.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/01a19_2010aspfiles.asp