

## **News Alert – HPID Deadline & Enforcement Delayed Indefinitely**

On October 31, 2014, the CMS gave employers a welcomed Halloween “treat” rather than a “trick”. CMS announces on Friday that they will not enforce the regulations regarding Health Plan Identifiers (“HPIDs”) until further notice. Importantly, this means that CMS has *delayed* the enforcement of the *November 5, 2014 deadline* for health plans, healthcare clearinghouses and providers to obtain an HPID. This includes those health plans of self-insured health plans (i.e., employers who have to obtain their own HPID). If you are fully-insured, this does not impact your current actions.

If you have already applied for the HPID, then no further action is required. If you have not applied for the HPID, or are in the middle of the application process, then you may either (i) complete the application or (ii) stop the application process until further notice. Outside of this, the next steps for plans that have taken steps to obtain an HPID, or for those that haven’t, are unclear, and more explanation is expected from CMS in the near future. We will update you as soon as more details or clarification is provided. Until then, if you have any questions or would like to seek additional guidance, please contact your local account representative.