NPI / TIN / EIN Claim Fields Cheat Sheet

How common provider and tax identifiers differ — and where they often appear on CMS-1500 claims.

Provider vs tax identifiers

NPI	A healthcare provider or organization in the NPI system.	Rendering provider: 24J; service facility: 32a; billing provider: 33a; referring provider: 17b as applicable.
TIN	Taxpayer Identification Number — umbrella term that can include an EIN or SSN.	Box 25 reports the federal tax ID number for the billing entity, with the applicable EIN/SSN indicator.
EIN	Employer Identification Number issued for tax identification.	May be the TIN reported in Box 25 when the billing entity uses an EIN.
SSN	Social Security Number; may function as a TIN in specific individual-provider contexts.	If legitimately used as the billing entity tax ID, follow payer/privacy/security requirements and the Box 25 indicator.

Common cross-checks

- Do not substitute a TIN for an NPI or an NPI for a TIN.
- Billing provider NPI and rendering provider NPI can differ because they identify different provider roles.
- Box 25 is the tax-identifier field; Box 33a is the billing provider NPI field.
- Box 24J is service-line rendering provider identification; follow payer rules for when it is required.
- Enrollment records and claim identifiers should agree with the payer's provider file.

Privacy reminder: Treat SSNs and other identifiers as sensitive data. Do not enter real patient/provider sensitive data into public web tools unless the tool explicitly supports secure handling and you have an authorized reason.

Official reference: CMS / NUCC: cms.gov/medicare/billing/electronicbillingeditrans/1500 · nucc.org