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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCVHS Recommends Adoption of NCPDP's Prior Authorization Transactions in SCRIPT Standard for ePrescribing

SCOTTSDALE, AZ – June 4, 2014 – In a recent letter to Secretary Sebelius, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the National Committee on Vital Health Statistics (NCVHS) recommended that HHS should name the NCPDP SCRIPT Standard Version 2013101 Prior Authorization transactions as the adopted standard for the exchange of prior authorization information between prescribers and processors for the pharmacy benefit. NCVHS also recommended that HHS should adopt the recommendation under the most appropriate regulatory sections and processes that would enable prompt industry implementation and at the earliest possible implementation time.

"The electronic prior authorization (ePA) transactions were developed using our proven, multi-stakeholder collaborative, consensus-building process," explained Lee Ann Stember, president of NCPDP. "We are pleased to have NCVHS recommend adoption and prompt implementation of the ePA transactions in the NCPDP SCRIPT Standard. It provides an electronic means for exchanging the information required for a prior authorization, working within prescriber workflows, and it improves patient access to needed medications."

NCPDP's SCRIPT Standard for ePrescribing was named in the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) and is a requirement of Meaningful Use (MU).

The NCVHS letter can be accessed at http://www.ncvhs.hhs.gov/140515lt2.pdf.

About NCPDP
Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization with 1,600 members representing virtually every sector of the pharmacy services industry. Our diverse membership provides leadership and healthcare business solutions through education and standards, created using the consensus building process. NCPDP has been named in federal legislation, including HIPAA, MMA, and HITECH. NCPDP members have created standards such as the Telecommunication Standard and Batch Standard, the SCRIPT Standard for ePrescribing, the Manufacturers Rebate Standard and more to improve communication within the pharmacy industry. Our data products include dataQ®, a robust database of information on more than 76,000 pharmacies, and HCIdea®, an innovative prescriber database that provides continually updated information on more than two million prescribers. NCPDP's RxReconn® is a legislative tracking product for real-time monitoring of pharmacy-related state and national legislative and regulatory activity. For more information about NCPDP Standards, Data Services, Products, Educational Programs and Work Group meetings, go online at www.ncpdp.org or call (480) 477-1000.

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