

CONTACTS:

Janet Cabibbo

jcabibbo@ncpdp.org, 480.477.1000, X104

Maggie Bruce

mbruce@ncpdp.org, 480.477.1000, X144

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****NCPDP Invites Specialty Pharmacy Stakeholders to Participate in Work Group Meeting,
August 3rd in St. Louis**

Scottsdale, AZ — June 21, 2018 — Driven by industry need and demand, NCPDP announced it has established a specialty pharmacy work group to ease the administrative challenges of managing specialty medications for patients with chronic or complex medical conditions, and help speed time to therapy. At the work group's first meeting, which will be held August 3, 2018, in St. Louis, Missouri, participants will establish the scope and goals that will guide its work. All industry stakeholders involved in specialty pharmacy are encouraged to [register](#) to participate in the work group meeting.

NCPDP established the specialty pharmacy work group based on strong industry interest and demand, which reached critical mass over the past several months. Industry stakeholders expressed urgent need to standardize and automate manual processes that delay patients from getting specialty medications to improve processing, provide important clinical and administrative efficiencies, and importantly, improve the patient experience. They also validated that NCPDP is the right place, and has the right process and people to support efforts to improve specialty pharmacy.

Industry stakeholders involved in managing specialty medications have identified a number of processes – from enrollment and benefit verification, to prior authorizations, patient consent, and outcomes reporting – that can benefit from standardization to improve care coordination and streamline administrative functions.

“We are compelled to take action now to improve care quality and speed time to therapy,” explained Lee Ann Stember, President and CEO of NCPDP. “It is gratifying to see so many people ready to devote their time and expertise to this new work group, and address the challenges faced by patients, physicians, pharmacists and others.”

NCPDP's WG18 Specialty Pharmacy Co-Chairs are: Pooja Babbrah, MBA, PBM Practice Lead, Point-of-Care Partners, LLC; Julie Hessick, R.Ph., Director, Clinical and Regulatory Affairs, CoverMyMeds, LLC; and Laura Topor, President, Granada Health, Inc.

The first meeting of Work Group 18 Specialty Pharmacy, will be held on August 3, 2018, in St. Louis, Missouri, during NCPDP's Quarterly Joint Technical Work Group Meetings. For registration and hotel information, visit: <http://ncpdp.org/Events/work-group-registration-information.aspx?ID=WGAug18>.

About NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization with more than 1,500 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 80,000 pharmacies, resQ[™], an industry pharmacy credentialing resource, and HCldea[®], an innovative prescriber database that provides continually updated information on more than 2.5 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 <http://www.ncdp.org> or call 480.477.1000.

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