

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 29, 2005

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NCPDP BRINGS PHARMACY SERVICES SECTOR TOGETHER FOR 28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SCOTTSDALE, AZ -- The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs, Inc. (NCPDP) hosted its 28th Annual Conference, March 5 – 9, 2005, in Phoenix, Arizona. The theme of the conference was "The Road Ahead: Breaking Boundaries".

Over 830 NCPDP members, speakers, exhibitors and media representatives attended the conference. NCPDP's membership includes representatives from chain and independent pharmacies, drug manufacturers, computer companies and software vendors, pharmacy claims processors, physician services organizations, prescription drug providers, telecommunication vendors, service organizations, governmental and regulatory agencies and more.

The conference began with two (2) days of Joint Technical Work Group sessions, where NCPDP members worked on specific tasks and issues related to the organization's pharmacy standards. NCPDP has twelve (12) current active work groups dealing with topics such as Manufacturer Rebates, Product Identification, Telecommunication, Member Enrollment and more. Current areas of focus include the Medicare Modernization Act (MMA), e-Prescribing, the National Provider Identifier (NPI), standards mapping and more. The new Work Group 14 Long Term Care, met for the first time since its formation.

On March 7, NCPDP President Lee Ann Stember delivered the President's Address during the Monday General Session. The session opened with Stember entering the stage on a mini-corvette to the sounds of the Rolling Stones.

"You just never know what surprises you'll find on the road ahead," Stember said as she welcomed the conference attendees. Stember enlightened the audience about many other turns the organization is about to take.

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She announced that, due to member feedback, the Annual Conference will be moving back to Scottsdale at the Westin Kierland Resort, starting in 2007. Stember talked about NCPDP members serving as "ambassadors" of the organization. Several members testified to the NCVHS in the past year, which has resulted in CMS recommending use of the Telecommunication and SCRIPT Standard for e-Prescribing in the proposed rules released earlier this year. She mentioned the creation of the new Work Group 14 Long Term Care and welcomed new members from that segment.

The President's Address also mentioned several other instances of outreach and collaboration for the organization. Those include agreements with other standards development organizations X12 and HL7, reciprocal agreements with various pharmacy-related associations and the partnership in the Café Rx project. Another collaborative effort was the NCPDP-HL7 e-Prescribing Demonstration Booth, which was featured in the Exhibit Hall.

The efforts of the 2004 NCPDP Work Group Co-Chairs were recognized during the session and both the Rising Star Award and the Benjamin D. Ward Distinguished Member Awards were presented during the Monday General Session. The 2005 recipient of the Rising Star Award was Jim McCain, R.Ph., Healthcare Information Architect for the Department of Veteran Affairs. Roy Bussewitz, R.Ph., J.D., Vice President, Telecommunications Standards of NACDS was the recipient of the 2005 Benjamin D. Ward Distinguished Member Award.

The conference Keynote Speaker, Captain Gerald Coffee, United States Navy (Ret.), inspired the attendees with the story about his experience as a Prisoner of War in Viet Nam.

The conference featured two (2) days of educational track sessions presented by various leading professionals in the pharmacy industry. Topics discussed in the track sessions included: Medication Therapy Management, Genomics, National Provider Identifier (NPI), Rx Norm, e-Prescribing and more. One track session, "NCPDP 101", featured up-to-date information from each NCPDP Work Group and each Standard and described the NCPDP standards development process.

The NCPDP leadership was honored at the President's Dinner. The Individual Member Excellence (TIME) Award was presented at that event. The 2005 recipient of the TIME Award was Margaret Weiker, Director, BES HC Product, Standards and Sales from EDS.

The Tuesday General Session featured the Passing of the Gavel Ceremony, which saw outgoing Chair, Harold E. Cohen, R.Ph., U.S. Pharmacist magazine, pass over the leadership reigns to Marla Brickley, Actelion Pharmaceuticals US, Inc. Brickley will serve as the 2005 NCPDP Chair and Carol K. Cerney, R.Ph., MBA, of NDCHealth will serve as the Vice Chair in the coming year.

The Industry Executive Roundtable was also part of the Tuesday General Session. Television journalist, Susan Denzter, moderated the panel discussion. The panelists included Judy Cahill of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP), Craig Fuller, National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), David Kates of WebMD Corporation, David Kvancz, M.S., R.Ph., FASHP from The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, John Quinn of Capgemini Health and Steve Waldren, M.D., M.S., American Academy of Family Physicians.

The conference concluded on Wednesday with the Wednesday Breakfast event, featuring Arizona storyteller, Marshall Trimble, followed by an e-Prescribing panel discussion.

The last session of the conference was a panel discussion on electronic prescribing. The panel included moderator Sylvan Graham of Santarus, Inc., Michael Burger of WebMD Practice Services, Luanne Malsin, PharmD., of Marshfield Clinic, Dwight Michael, M.D. from the Gettysburg Family Practice, Inc. and Clinical Physician J. Timothy Murphy, M.D.

The 2006 NCPDP Annual Conference will be held March 18-22, 2006 in Phoenix, Arizona.

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About NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization with approximately 1400 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 and the MMA. NCPDP members have created standards such as the Telecommunication Standard and Batch Standard, the SCRIPT Standard for e-Prescribing, the Manufacturers Rebate Standard and more to improve communication within the pharmacy industry. Our data services include the NCPDP Provider Identification Number, a unique identifier of over 68,000 pharmacies and HCIda, "The Prescriber Identity Solution". For more information about NCPDP Standards, Educational Programs and Work Group meetings, go online at www.ncdp.org.

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