

NEWS RELEASE

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NCPDP TO HOLD EDUCATIONAL SUMMIT FOCUSED ON THE MMA

Scottsdale, AZ – The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) will hold an accredited Educational Summit titled *"The Medicare Modernization Act: Lessons from the Trenches; Opportunities for the Future"*. This program will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2006 at the Hotel InterContinental Dallas, in Addison, Texas.

Medicare Part D is now a reality and some of the early lessons from implementing balloted and emerging standards for electronic prescribing, formulary and benefits, medication history, prior authorization, and patient impact are starting to show early results. What are we learning as we move from theory to practice? What do we, and our patients, have to show for all our efforts? What were the successes and where are improvements needed? What are the new frontiers in standards development and harmonization?

The program will be moderated by **Joel Brill**, M.D., F.A.C.G., of Predictive Health, LLC.

Representatives of The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will present, *"Lessons Learned and the Future of the MMA."* The speakers will include **Henry Chao**, **Tracey McCutcheon** and **Lorraine Zicha**. This program will provide attendees with lessons learned during the first year of the Medicare Prescription Drug Program.

"Part D Lessons and Challenges Faced by the Industry" will feature a diverse panel of speakers. Panelists from various sectors of the industry will discuss the lessons learned as it relates to Part D. The discussion will cover how the panelists have approached Part B, challenges with messaging, prescription and eligibility. The panel will include **Charlie Oltman**, M.B.A. of Target Stores, **Gary Schoettmer**, R.Ph., of RNA Health Information Systems, **Mike Staudenmaier**, Pharm.D., of Argus Health Systems, Inc., **Stacey Swartz**, Pharm.D., of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), and **Michele Vilaret**, R.Ph., of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS).

"e-Prescribing Pilot Programs: The Challenges and Outcomes" will be a panel discussion focused on the lessons learned from the e-Prescribing pilot programs released this year. The speakers will cover the challenges in implementing formulary and benefit information using NCPDP standards through the RxHub protocol. The panel will include **Michael Bordelon** of Talyst, **Tony Schueth**, M.S., of Point-of-Care Partners, and **Ken Whittemore, Jr.**, R.Ph., M.B.A., of SureScripts.

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The final presentation of the program will be a “*Payer Panel Discussion.*” Payer representatives will share their lessons learned and the challenges in implementing elements of MMA. The health plans represented will share their best practices for educating staff (sales and customer service) members, and the pharmacy community in understanding Part D. This panel will include **William Fleming**, Pharm.D., of Humana, **Scott Hughes**, R.Ph., of MemberHealth, Inc., **Laura Hungiville**, Pharm.D., of WellCare Health Plans, Inc., **John Jones**, R.Ph., J.D., of Prescription Solutions, and **Terri Swanson** of CIGNA.

For more information on the program, registration and venue, go online at:
www.ncpdp.org/frame_meetings_ep.htm.

All Summit attendees are invited to stay for the Joint Technical Work Group Meetings on November 15-17, 2006.

About NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization with approximately 1500 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 HCIdesa, “*The Prescriber Identity Solution*”. For more information about NCPDP Standards, Data Services, Educational Programs and Work Group meetings, go online at www.ncpdp.org.

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