

NEWS RELEASE

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NCPDP INTRODUCES NEW WORK GROUP FOCUSED ON RFID/AUTO ID

Scottsdale, AZ – The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) has created a new work group devoted to Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and Auto Identification technologies. The formation of WG17 RFID/Auto ID was recently approved by the Board of Trustees.

The WG17 Co-Chairs are Eli Perlman of TIBCO Software Inc., John Hill, M.B.A.H.C.M. of Argus Health Systems Inc., and Lynda Schulman of Caremark, Inc.

WG17 RFID/Auto ID identifies the intersection and gaps between RFID/Auto ID standards and healthcare industry requirements, and promotes the use of RFID/Auto ID technology through adherence to and enhancement of related standards.

Some of the goals of the new WG17 RFID/Auto ID include defining business cases for use of RFID/Auto ID, facilitation of patient safety and privacy, facilitation of implementation of standards for identifying and tracking pharmaceuticals and other regulated products throughout the supply chain, recommending cost effective implementation strategies, promoting the securing of data, and tracking legislative and regulatory developments related to product identification and tracking.

WG17 RFID/Auto ID will next meet at the May NCPDP Joint Technical Work Group Meetings, to be held at the Westin Kierland Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona on May 6-7, 2007. For information, go online to www.ncpdp.org/frame_meetings_wg.htm.

About NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization with over 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 74,500 pharmacies, and HCidea, *"The Prescriber Identity Solution"*. For more information about NCPDP Standards, Data Services, Educational Programs and Work Group Meetings, go online at www.ncpdp.org or call (480) 477-1000.

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