



NCPDP

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAMS

# NEWS FLASH



January 3, 2012

## Call for Consensus Group Participation

The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP), an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited organization, develops consensus standards that are used for information transfer processes for the pharmacy services sector of the healthcare industry. Learn more about the [development and maintenance process of NCPDP standards](#).

### Consensus Group

To meet ANSI requirements for certification of NCPDP standards, a Voting Consensus Group is formed annually for new data maintenance ballots coming out of the Joint Technical Work Group Meetings held in that year. Participation in the Consensus Group is voluntary but must consist of at least thirty participants and represent a reasonable balance of interests.

### **Consensus Group participation is critical to the successful disposition of a ballot.**

- Consensus participants are expected to participate on all new ballots released within the calendar year and follow those ballots through to completion.
- Consensus participants must review all balloted items and determine if the submission of relevant comments is appropriate.
- Consensus participants must cast a vote on all ballots released within their calendar year of consensus participation. Voting options are Affirmative with Comments (comments are not required), Negative with Reasons (relevant reasons are required), and Abstain (no interest in the balloted item(s)).
- Ballot validity is dependent on the voting of the Consensus Group. 60% of the Consensus Group must vote on a ballot (abstain votes are factored into this count), the Consensus participant classification must represent a reasonable balance of interest, and at least a 75% approval rate of the affirmative and negative Consensus Group votes must be achieved.
- Consensus participants must, when applicable, respond timely to ballot comment categorization actions by the managing work group.
- Consensus participants that are already NCPDP members must [update their profiles](#) for any changes to their personal information. A name change will require contacting the Council office directly. Notification must occur as soon as possible.

In order to participate in the Data Maintenance Ballot process, one does not have to be a participant of the Consensus Group. Simultaneous with the voting period of a Data Maintenance Ballot, NCPDP will make the ballot documentation available for public review and comment. All comments received by the public shall be considered and classified in accordance with the Bylaws.

Those NCPDP members in good standing wishing to participate in the Consensus Group may do so without charge. Your NCPDP membership must be current in order to register as a Consensus Group participant.

Participation by non-NCPDP members is an annual charge of \$600 or one might want to consider NCPDP membership at \$650. More information about [NCPDP membership](#) is available online.

To ensure participation in the Consensus Group, it is important to allow at least one week for a payment to process. Consensus Group participation is not transferable and there are no refunds provided. \$200 of this charge may later be applied to NCPDP membership if used by June 30, 2012.

**Enrollment in the Consensus Group begins on Wednesday, January 4, 2012 and ends at 8:00 p.m. (EST) on Friday, February 3, 2012.**

If you wish to be a Consensus Group participant please [register online](#). Late enrollments will not be accepted.

For more information, contact Patsy McElroy at (830) 438-8055 or e-mail [pmcelroy@ncpdp.org](mailto:pmcelroy@ncpdp.org).

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