

NEWS RELEASE

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BUSSEWITZ STEPS DOWN FROM NCPDP BOARD

Kevin Nicholson to assume vacated spot

Scottsdale, AZ – The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs, Inc. (NCPDP), has announced a change with its Board of Trustees. Roy Bussewitz, R.Ph., J.D., Vice President of Managed Care – Telecommunications for the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), has resigned from the NCPDP Board of Trustees. Kevin Nicholson, R.Ph., J.D., who serves as the Director of Pharmacy Regulatory Affairs for NACDS, will replace Bussewitz on the NCPDP Board of Trustees.

“On behalf of the membership and Board of Trustees of the NCPDP, we would like to extend a message of gratitude for all of Roy Bussewitz’s efforts as a member of the the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee,” NCPDP President, Lee Ann Stember said in a written statement. “Roy’s knowledge, leadership and professionalism have been an asset to NCPDP and the health care industry.”

The NCPDP Board of Trustees is comprised of 15 members representing the three voting categories within the organization: Payer/Processor, Producer/Provider and Vendor/General Interest. Nicholson will take the open seat in the Vendor/General Interest category vacated by Bussewitz.

“We would like to express our appreciation for Roy’s continuing support of NCPDP, including his active participation as a work group co-chair.” Stember said. “His knowledge and leadership will provide further, long-lasting contributions to our organization and the health care industry in general.”

About NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization (SDO). With over 1300 members representing virtually every sector of the pharmacy services industry, NCPDP has made great strides over the last 25 years. NCPDP has established HCIda, a new company that will create a health care identifier for individual health care prescribers. The NCPDP Provider Identification Number provides over 69,000 pharmacies with a unique identifying number for interactions with federal agencies and third party processors. NCPDP has hosted several Educational Programs on issues pertaining to HIPAA, Version 5, Product Identification, the Internet’s impact on

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pharmacy, and health care legislation. NCPDP has 11 active Work Groups dedicated to the technological advancement of pharmacy through standards development. On August 17, 2000, NCPDP's Telecommunication Standard Version 5 Release 1 and Batch Standard Version 1 Release 0 (to be revised to Batch Version 1 Release 1) were named the official standards for pharmacy claims in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act's (HIPAA) Final Rule.

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