

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 31, 2003

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NCPDP ANNOUNCES EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

SCOTTSDALE, AZ - The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) has released the schedule of Educational Programs for 2003. The Standards Development Organization, which works with the pharmacy services sector of the health care industry, will offer three programs in conjunction with their quarterly Joint Technical Work Group Meetings.

An Educational Summit, *"Enrollment – The Impact on Health Plans, PBMs, Pharmacies and Reporting"*, will be held on May 13, 2003 at the Fontainebleau Hilton in Miami Beach, Florida. This Summit will address issues relating to patient enrollment and the impact this has on eligibility and claims billing for the pharmacy industry. The program will provide education on the patient enrollment processes of health plans, employer groups and insurers including an overview of claims processing to discuss what elements are needed from pharmacies in order to validate eligibility, pay claims and provide reporting.

On August 12, 2003 at the Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland, NCPDP will present the Educational Forum, *"HIPAA Hurdles and Resolutions"*. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is a major focus for all health care entities. This Educational Forum will address the challenges of implementing HIPAA to date. The Program speakers will showcase a current problem and provide solutions that have proven to be effective or suggest possible solutions that are currently being developed. The program will include case studies, testing strategies, GAP analysis strategies and other methods of analysis.

NCPDP will revisit the topic of discount programs at the November 11, 2003 Educational Forum, *"Discount Cards and Coupons – Past, Present and is there a Future?"* This program, to be held at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare outside of Chicago, will provide updated information from a similar program held in 2002. The Forum will focus on the progress of individual discount card programs - the successes, challenges and changes over the past year. The impact that these programs have on various sectors will be examined, including public, pharmacy and payer sectors.

For more information about these programs, venues and speakers, go to the NCPDP web site at www.ncpdp.org.

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ABOUT NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization (SDO). With over 1350 members representing virtually every sector of the pharmacy services industry, NCPDP has made great strides over the last 25 years. NCPDP has established HCldea, 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 11 active Work Groups dedicated to the technological advancement of pharmacy through standards development. NCPDP's Telecommunication Standard Version 5.1 and Batch Standard Version 1.1 were named the official standards for pharmacy claims in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act's Final Rule. For more information about NCPDP Standards, Educational Programs and NCPDP Work Group meetings, visit the NCPDP web site at www.ncpdp.org.

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