

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 31, 2003**

**CONTACT: Dennis Kitterman**  
**(480) 477-1000 ext. 109**  
**dkitterman@ncpdp.org**  
**www.ncpdp.org**

# **NCPDP RELEASES ENHANCMENTS TO THE TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARD**

**SCOTTSDALE, AZ** - The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs' (NCPDP) Board of Trustees has approved the release of Telecommunication Standards and Implementation Guide Version 8 Release 0.

### **The Need for the Telecommunication Standard**

The Telecommunication Standard defines the record layout for real-time prescription claim transactions and provides practical guidelines for software developers. The standard not only provides a format for billing of pharmacy transactions, it also encompasses certifying eligibility and prescription drug benefits for traditional, managed care and government programs; response detail information defining the reimbursement or denial of compensation with explanations; and concurrent drug use review. Every year billions of pharmacy claims are formatted using the Telecommunication Standard for electronic data interchange at the point-of-sale. In addition, the Telecommunication Standard provides the framework for the Detail Record in the NCPDP Batch Standard. Work Group 1 Telecommunication maintains the Telecommunication Standard.

### **About Telecommunication Standard Version 8.0**

Telecommunication Standard Version 8.0 is the latest version of the standard to be approved by WG1 Telecommunication, currently co-chaired by Annette Gabel, Executive Director HIPAA Transaction Standard Compliance with Medco Health, Damon Tressler, Manager, Industry Standards and Relations with AdvancePCS and Paul R. Wilson, Manager, Special Projects with Express Scripts, Inc.

Removed from Telecommunication Standard Version 8.0 were the duplicate response codes for Rebill (Claim/Service, Information Reporting, and Controlled Substance Reporting) transactions. Sections within the Implementation Guide were modified to note the removal of duplicate values for Rebill Transaction and a Frequently Asked Question was updated to point to the revisions within the Guide. Added to the Specifications Document was a new subsection to clarify the removal of the duplicate response codes for the Rebill transactions.

*-more-*

**Impact**

How does the new version of the Telecommunication Standard help the industry? The changes noted above reflect requests made by the pharmacy industry for enhancements to the Telecommunication Standard. As the Telecommunication Standard continues to be implemented, approved changes and enhancements signify the response of NCPDP to these requests. The changes were reviewed by the membership in a consensus building process, which went through a ballot process for approval.

###

**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 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 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.ncdp.org](http://www.ncdp.org).

###