

NEWS RELEASE

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NCPDP PRESENTS EDUCATIONAL FORUM IN NOVEMBER

The Impact of the Medicare Modernization Act will be the focus

SCOTTSDALE, AZ - The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs, Inc. (NCPDP) will present its 3rd Annual Drug Benefit Educational Forum with a program titled, ***Medicare Modernization Act and Its Impact on the Industry***. The Forum will be held at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta on November 16, 2004.

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003 was created to provide seniors and people living with disabilities with a prescription drug benefit, more choices and better benefits under Medicare. Providing more choices, better benefits and improved healthcare within the Prescription Drug Benefit is its goal.

The MMA is considered a very hot topic currently in the healthcare industry. Everything from managing the benefit at the physician's office to Health Savings Accounts, e-Prescribing and the National Provider Identifier (NPI) will be addressed at the 3rd Annual Drug Benefit Educational Forum.

The pharmacy benefit represents significant opportunity to engage consumers as part of the healthcare cost solution. This forum will discuss how PBMs are embracing consumer driven healthcare and integrating the pharmacy benefit into the consumer driven healthcare model.

Who will emerge as a leader in this rapidly moving segment? What will adoption look like? What is the impact of the MMA to pharmacy?

NCPDP will bring together a roster of expert speakers that will present a variety of perspectives from legal to consumer to healthcare quality. The program will include government representatives and discussion will include the impact of the MMA on e-Prescribing and the NPI.

For more details on all NCPDP Educational Programs, log on to the NCPDP web site: www.ncpdp.org and click on the Educational Programs link.

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About NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization (SDO). With over 1370 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 service that will create a healthcare identifier for individual healthcare prescribers. The NCPDP Provider Identification Number provides over 68,000 pharmacies with a unique identifying number for interactions with federal agencies and third party processors. NCPDP has eleven (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 website at www.ncdp.org.

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