

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **NCPDP RELEASES ENHANCEMENTS to TELECOMMUNICATION and the SCRIPT STANDARD IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE**

**SCOTTSDALE, AZ** - The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs' (NCPDP) Board of Trustees has approved the release of Telecommunication Standard and Implementation Guide Version A Release 1 and SCRIPT Standard Implementation Guide Version 6 Release Ø.

#### **What is the Telecommunication Standard and why is it needed?**

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.

#### **What enhancements have been made?**

Requests for changes to the Standard, resulting in Telecommunication Standard Version A.1, were approved by WG1 Telecommunication, balloted, and approved by the Board. WG1 Telecommunication is currently co-chaired by Annette Gabel, Executive Director HIPAA Transaction Standard Compliance with Medco; Cookie Orescanin, Senior Pharmacy Business Analyst with Longs Drug Stores, Inc.; and Paul R. Wilson, Manager, Special Projects with Express Scripts, Inc.

#### **Telecommunication Standard Version A.1**

In Version A.1 clarification on when and how to use Reject Codes and the Reject Field Occurrence Indicator during a Multi-Ingredient Compound Transaction Rejected Response was made.

#### **ANSI Approval**

On October 7, 2004, the Telecommunication Standard Version A.1 received ANS approval. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is a private, non-profit organization that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standardization and conformity assessment system.

**What is the SCRIPT Standard and why is it needed?**

SCRIPT is a standard created to facilitate the transfer of prescription data between pharmacies and prescribers. The current standard supports messages regarding new prescriptions, prescription changes, refill requests, prescription fill status notification, and prescription cancellation. A pharmacy can send requests to many prescribers and a prescriber can send requests to many pharmacies, thereby reducing the time involved in this process and reducing the chances of errors that could occur from oral or written communication.

In a September 2004 letter to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson, The National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) recommended the most current version of the NCPDP SCRIPT standard as the foundation standard for electronic prescribing (e-prescribing) within the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA).

**What enhancements have been made?**

Requests for changes to the Standard, resulting in SCRIPT Standard Implementation Guide Version 6.0, were approved by WG11 Prescriber/Pharmacist Interface, balloted, and approved by the Board. WG11 Prescriber/Pharmacist Interface is currently co-chaired by Bobby Davis, Vice President, WorkingRx/Apollo, Pharmacy Services Division; Karen Guinan, Pharmacy Application Specialist with Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.; and Dan Bruchwalski, R.Ph., Director of Product Innovation, NDCHealth.

**SCRIPT Standard Version 6.0**

In Version 6.0 the additional functionality to send a request for a Prior Authorization through SCRIPT utilizing the RXCHG message was included within the Standard. Additionally, the Standard now supports the utilization of the Prescription Change Request Transaction as a change not only in the original new prescription but also on an existing "fillable" prescription and Prior Authorization.

**ANSI Approval**

On October xxx, 2004, the SCRIPT Standard Version 6.0 received ANS approval. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is a private, non-profit organization that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standardization and conformity assessment system.

**Getting involved**

NCPDP Standards are developed by the membership. Without membership involvement and participation, further development of the standards would be halted. For more information on the NCPDP Standards, other NCPDP activities, and how you may get involved, visit the NCPDP web site at [www.ncdp.org](http://www.ncdp.org). The next NCPDP Joint Technical Work Group meetings are November 17-19, 2004 at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta - Atlanta, GA. Prior to the JTWG meeting on November 16, 2004, NCPDP will host an Educational Program entitled, 'Medicare Modernization Act and It's Impact on the Industry'. NCPDP's 28th Annual Conference, "The Road Ahead: Breaking Boundaries" will be hosted March 5 - 9, 2005 in Phoenix, AZ. The Joint Technical Work Group meetings will be held prior to the Annual Conference, March 5 and 6, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix. For more information on these meetings, please visit [www.ncdp.org](http://www.ncdp.org) or call (480) 477-1000 to register.

**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 HCidea, 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](http://www.ncpdp.org)

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