

NEWS RELEASE

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NCPDP FILLS NEW EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT POSITION **Graeff to Join Organization's Management Team**

The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) is proud to announce a new addition to the staff management team. Catherine C. Graeff, R.Ph., MBA, has been selected to fill the newly created position of Senior Vice President, Communications and Industry Relations for NCPDP and will join the staff in January of 2005.

"We are very fortunate that our Board of Trustees had the insight and recognized the value of this role within our organization in creating this position," explained Lee Ann Stember, NCPDP President. "We were even more fortunate to select a candidate from such a long list of knowledgeable and capable candidates for this position. The response and interest surrounding this role simply was overwhelming."

Graeff will be responsible for providing vital industry intelligence needed to ensure NCPDP and its members take a leading role in the nation's healthcare system. In addition, the Senior Vice President, Communication and Industry Relations will be the *primary* staff member responsible for representing NCPDP to industry at large.

Graeff brings over 25 years of experience in management and operations within various segments of the healthcare industry and has worked with both for-profit and non-profit organizations. Her background includes executive level positions in both business development and operations in hospital pharmacy management, pharmacy benefit management, health care consulting and managed care information systems organizations. She has been a management consultant for numerous health care organizations in strategic planning, business development and business process re-engineering. Additionally, Graeff served as a Clinical Professor at the University of California Graduate School of Business in the Entrepreneur Program. Most recently, Graeff was employed as a Consultant Principal, and Director of Client Services for FourThought Group, Inc., a leading consulting firm in information systems, change management and process re-engineering to the health and human services industry, serving many state Medicaid agencies and CMS.

"Cathy will provide NCPDP with a savvy and experienced voice in the industry," Stember said. "Moreover, her experience and leadership will be a valuable asset in terms of orienting our internal staff with issues that effect our members and the organization."

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Graeff is a sixteen-year member of NCPDP and was the 2003 recipient of the prestigious TIME Award. She has served three terms on the Board of Trustees, two terms as Secretary/Treasurer, served on the Executive Committee and HCldea Advisory Committee, and has also served as Chair of the Finance, Strategic Planning, Nominating and Educational Programs Committees.

A registered pharmacist in the state of Arizona, Graeff holds an MBA from the University of Houston and a Bachelor of Science, Pharmacy degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

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 HCldea, 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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