

NEWS RELEASE

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NCPDP FORMS NEW WORK GROUP WITH FOCUS ON LONG TERM CARE

First meeting for WG14 Long Term Care at 2005 Annual Conference venue

Scottsdale, AZ - The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs, Inc. (NCPDP) Board of Trustees has approved the creation of a new work group focused on providing business solutions to the Long Term Care segment of healthcare. WG14 Long Term Care will meet for the first time at the March Work Group meetings in Phoenix, Arizona.

The NCPDP Quarterly Technical Work Group Meetings will run March 5-6, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix, to be followed by the Annual Conference, March 6-9, 2005 at the Phoenix Civic Plaza.

After several preliminary discussions at various healthcare industry events, NCPDP was asked to assemble a focus group of interested industry representatives to discuss issues facing the growing Long Term Care sector.

"We received a consistent and resounding message from the Long Term Care folks," explained NCPDP President, Lee Ann Stember. "There is a need for a single 'house' for various companies and associations to come together to create solutions for the Long Term Care segment. We now realize the vast array of issues facing that segment."

This new work group will provide a forum for Long Term Care professionals and companies to work together to identify how best to approach and solve the challenges that impact that segment of the industry. They will work in conjunction with the other NCPDP Work Groups, as well as various associations working on Long Term Care initiatives, to develop new national standards and enhance existing standards for the Long Term Care segment of healthcare.

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"A significant part of our first steps with this work group will be significant outreach to associations and organizations that have been looking for a venue to identify and resolve standards issues facing Long Term Care," Stember said.

Some of the standards issues that the new work group will look at include return to credit processing, prior authorization, coordination of benefits, compounded drugs, home infusion billing and others specific to electronic transmission for Consultant Pharmacist Drug Regimen Review (DRR) and Federal requirements between the consultant pharmacist, nursing facility, provider pharmacy, medical director, and the physician.

For more information about NCPDP Work Groups and the NCPDP Annual Conference, go online at www.ncdp.org.

About NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization with approximately 1400 members representing virtually every sector of the pharmacy services industry. Our diverse membership provides leadership and healthcare business solutions through education and standards, created using the consensus building process. NCPDP has been named in federal legislation, including HIPAA and the MMA. NCPDP members have created standards such as the Telecommunication Standard and Batch Standard, the SCRIPT Standard for e-Prescribing, the Manufacturers Rebate Standard and more to improve communication within the pharmacy industry. Our data services include the NCPDP Provider Identification Number, a unique identifier of over 68,000 pharmacies and HCIda, a new identifier for individual healthcare prescribers. For more information about NCPDP Standards, Educational Programs and Work Group meetings, go online at www.ncdp.org.

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