

NEWS RELEASE

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NCPDP RELEASES ENHANCEMENTS for the SCRIPT STANDARD and BILLING UNIT STANDARD IMPLEMENTATION GUIDES

SCOTTSDALE, AZ - The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs' (NCPDP) Board of Trustees has approved the release of the SCRIPT Standard Implementation Guides for Version 7 Release 0 and Version 7 Release 1, as well as the Billing Unit Standard Implementation Guide for Version 2 Release 0.

What is the SCRIPT Standard and why is it needed?

SCRIPT is a standard in widespread use by the industry for electronic prescribing. It was 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. NCPDP estimates that 75 percent of pharmacies have the capability to receive messages using the SCRIPT Standard.

The NCPDP SCRIPT Standard was recommended by the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) as a foundation standard for electronic prescribing. The NCVHS was called upon to advise the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA). The NCVHS heard testimony over several months on electronic prescribing standards and published a letter of recommendation in September 2004. The recommendation letter can be found at <http://www.ncvhs.hhs.gov/>.

What enhancements have been made?

Requests for changes to the Standard, resulting in SCRIPT Standard Implementation Guides Version 7.0 and 7.1, 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.

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SCRIPT Standard Implementation Guide Version 7.0

In Version 7.0 the Provider Segment was modified from 2 to 3 loops to accommodate the reporting of a supervisor and the term “authorizing prescriber agent” was modified to “designated agent,” with further guidance of usage.

SCRIPT Standard Implementation Guide Version 7.1

For Version 7.1 clarification of the ambiguity regarding the population of the Response (RES) Segment in a Refill Denial Response (REFRES) was provided.

What is the Billing Unit Standard and why is it needed?

The NCPDP Billing Unit Standard establishes a "common billing unit language" for the submission of prescription claims. It is intended to meet two needs within the pharmaceutical drug claim industry: 1) to provide practical guidelines for software developers throughout the industry and 2) to ensure a consistent implementation of standardized billing units. Use of this standard reduces the chance for rejected claims, payment errors, and delayed payments for both claim submissions and rebate billings.

What enhancements have been made?

Requests for changes to the Standard, resulting in Billing Unit Standard Implementation Guide Version 2.0, were approved by WG2 Product Identification, balloted, and approved by the Board. WG2 Product Identification, is currently co-chaired by Karen Eckert, R.Ph., Director, eRx, Regulations, and Standards, Medi-Span, Inc.; John Klimek, R.Ph., Manager – RxView, Albertson's, Inc.; and Kay Morgan, Manager, Product Knowledge Base, First DataBank.

Billing Unit Standard Implementation Guide Version 2.0

For Version 2.0 the Implementation Guide and Specifications documents were combined into the standard implementation guide template. Clarification was made to the usage of multi-component dose, references to “rounding” and to versions of NCPDP *Telecommunications Standard* prior to 5.1 were removed and Frequently Asked Questions were added to provide guidance.

ANSI Approval

On January 12, 2005, the Billing Unit Standard Implementation Guide Version 2.0 received ANSI approval. Version 7.0 of the SCRIPT Standard Implementation Guide has been submitted and is expected to receive ANSI approval soon. 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. The next NCPDP Technical Work Group meetings are March 5-6, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix - Phoenix, Arizona. Following the Technical Work Group Meetings, NCPDP will host its 28th Annual Conference, "The Road Ahead: Breaking Boundaries," on March 5-9 at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix at Civic Plaza and the Phoenix Civic Plaza. For more information on these meetings, please visit 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 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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