

NEWS RELEASE

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CMS NAMES NCPDP STANDARDS IN E-PRESCRIBING PROPOSED RULE

***Telecommunication and SCRIPT Standards Recommended endorsed for e-Prescribing
by NCVHS, CMS for use within the MMA***

Scottsdale, AZ - The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) has had two (2) standards named in proposed rules for e-Prescribing. On Friday, February 4, 2005, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) submitted in the Federal Register proposed rules for adoption of standards for electronic prescription drug program under Title I of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA).

As the result of recommendations from the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS), CMS has recommended use of the NCPDP SCRIPT Standard v5.0 for e-Prescribing, and the continued support of the NCPDP Telecommunication Standard v5.1 and ASC X12N 270/271 for eligibility checking in e-Prescribing.

"I am really proud of the efforts of our members and staff in providing testimony to the NCVHS about the use and potential of NCPDP Standards within the e-Prescribing model," said NCPDP President, Lee Ann Stember. "The ongoing and tireless work of our members in the standards development process will continue to provide solutions and value for the healthcare industry long into the future."

NCVHS has also recommended the use of the NCPDP Provider Identification Number for identifying dispensers and HCIda for identifying prescribers in the event that the NPI will not be available for use by January 1, 2006, which CMS is currently considering. Noted is the work NCPDP is facilitating with industry task groups for standards for transmitting medication history, formulary and benefit information, prior authorization workflow, and standardized SIG instructions.

To view the Medicare Part D Electronic-Prescribing Proposed Rule, go to www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarerereform.

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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, "The Prescriber Identity Solution". For more information about NCPDP Standards, Educational Programs and Work Group meetings, go online at www.ncpdp.org.

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