

NEWS RELEASE

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NCPDP RELEASES ENHANCEMENTS FOR THE TELECOMMUNICATION 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 B 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 B.Ø, were approved by WG1 Telecommunication, balloted, and approved by the Board of Trustees. WG1 Telecommunication is currently co-chaired by Annette Gabel, Executive Director HIPAA Transaction Standard Compliance with Medco; Damon Tressler, Manager, Industry Standards & Relations with Caremark, Inc.; and Paul R. Wilson, Manager, Special Projects with Express Scripts, Inc.

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Telecommunication Standard Version B.Ø

In Version B.Ø the clarification as to where the patient resides and where the drug or service is dispensed or administered was given. Additionally, clarification on the use of reject codes with descriptions of “Not Supported”, “Not Covered”, and “Missing/Invalid”, addition of new and changes to existing reject codes, and the shared use of reject codes for compounded claim transactions and non-compounded claim transactions was provided.

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 website at www.ncdp.org. The next NCPDP Joint Technical Work Group meetings are August 17-19, 2005 at the Westin Philadelphia - Philadelphia, PA and November 9-11, 2005 at the Hilton Long Beach – Long Beach, CA. Prior to the JTWG meetings on August 16, 2005 and November 8, 2005, NCPDP will host Educational Programs entitled, ‘Future Standards Under HIPAA and MMA: New & Unfinished Business’ and ‘Innovation and the Prescription Drug Benefit’, respectively. For more information on these meetings, please visit www.ncdp.org or call (480) 477-1000 to register.

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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.ncdp.org.

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