



STATEMENT ON THE ISSUE

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICE BILLING CODES APPROVED

NCPDP Applauds Accomplishment by PSTAC

The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP), whose members include over six hundred companies in the pharmacy services sector of the healthcare industry, is issuing a statement of support for the efforts of the Pharmacist Services Technical Advisory Coalition (PSTAC) regarding the approval of professional service billing codes for pharmacists and pharmacies.

PSTAC has been granted a set of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)-compliant billing codes for pharmacists and pharmacies to use in billing third-party payers when providing Medication Therapy Management Services (MTMS). The American Medical Association (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Editorial Panel has approved three codes effective January 1, 2006. The codes will be used to bill any health plan that provides a benefit for MTMS, including those covered under the new Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Benefit beginning January 1, 2006.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment by the representatives involved in PSTAC on behalf of the pharmacy industry," said NCPDP President Lee Ann Stember. "The NCPDP Telecommunication Standard is ready-built to accommodate transactions that use CPT codes, as is the ASC X12 837 Standard. And we are working closely with the industry on MTMS issues in our work groups."

The codes will be used to bill third-party payers for MTMS performed face-to-face between a pharmacist and a patient:

- *Code 0115T is the billing code for a first-encounter service performed face-to-face with a patient in a time increment of up to 15 minutes.*
- *Code 0116T is for use with the same patient in a time increment of up to 15 minutes for a subsequent or follow-up encounter.*
- *Code +0117T is an add-on code that may be used to bill for additional increments of 15 minutes of time to either of the preceding codes.*

The MTMS codes can be found on the AMA website at www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/3885.html.

The national pharmacy associations comprising PSTAC are: the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP), the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP), the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), the International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists (IACP), the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), and the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA). For more information visit www.pstac.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 HCidea, *"The Prescriber Identity Solution"*. For more information about NCPDP Standards, Educational Programs and Work Group meetings, go online at www.ncdp.org.