

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Dennis Kitterman
(480) 477-1000 ext. 109
dkitterman@ncpdp.org
www.ncpdp.org

NCPDP ASSISTS CVS PHARMACY IN PROVIDING RELIEF TO HURRICANE KATRINA VICTIMS

SCOTTSDALE, AZ - The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) responded quickly to a request from CVS Pharmacy in an effort to provide medication and healthcare for New Orleans residents who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Responding to news that thousands of evacuees from New Orleans are being bussed to the Astrodome in Houston, CVS moved quickly to set up an emergency pharmacy outlet in the Astrodome.

"We received a call for assistance from CVS," explained NCPDP President Lee Ann Stember. "We responded by issuing a new NCPDP Provider ID Number within an hour to quickly make electronic claims transactions possible in a highly unusual circumstance."

The NCPDP Provider ID Number is the enumeration used by the pharmacy industry for transmission of electronic claims submissions of prescription drug transactions to government agencies and third party processors. The standard turnaround time to process a number for a new pharmacy operation is two to three business days.

"CVS should be applauded for their efforts to provide relief in the wake of such a tragedy," Stember said. "I can only imagine the effort needed to put together a working pharmacy in a one or two day window. The NCPDP Provider ID Number is just one infrastructure element needed to pull off such a critical project. I'm very proud that our staff could expedite their request for help in such a short timeframe."

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About NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization with over 1400 members representing virtually every sector of the pharmacy services industry. Our

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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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