

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 07, 2007

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PASSING THE GAVEL CEREMONY MARKS NCPDP LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

SureScripts Senior V.P. Assumes Role as NCPDP Chair

Scottsdale, AZ – The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs, Inc. (NCPDP) introduced a new Chair of the standards development organization at the Annual Conference held May 5-10, 2007 in Scottsdale, Arizona. **Bob Beckley**, Senior Vice President, Alliances & Product Strategy from SureScripts was introduced to conference attendees at the Passing of the Gavel Ceremony.

Beckley, an eighteen-year member of NCPDP, replaced **Carol K. Cerney**, R.Ph., MBA, Pharmacy Consultant for RelayHealth.

Beckley was the recipient of NCPDP's The Individual Member Excellence (TIME) and Benjamin D. Ward Awards and was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2003. He has served as Chair of the NCPDP Website Committee and Annual Conference Committee. He also has served as Work Group Co-Chair of WG3 Standard Identifiers, WG11 ePrescribing and Related Transactions and participated in various other NCPDP work groups and committees. He also is a member of ASAP, NCPA, NACDS and WEDi.

"The pharmacy industry is no longer a stand-alone segment of the healthcare industry," Beckley said to conference attendees. "There is a new word in our vocabulary now, Interoperability. Interoperability means that all segments of the healthcare industry are interacting with each other."

During the Passing the Gavel Ceremony, Cerney looked back at her time as the NCPDP Chair.

"I have had the distinct pleasure of meeting and working with extremely talented people from throughout the industry, many who have become dear friends," Cerney explained. "We have all grown together, just as NCPDP has over the years."

Some of the accomplishments for NCPDP during Cerney's term as Chair include the addition of three new work groups: WG15 Sample Management and Activity Reporting Transactions for Safety, WG16 Property and Casualty/Worker's Compensation and WG17 RFID/Auto Identification. NCPDP was officially named as an authorized Electronic File Interchange Organization (EFIO) by CMS, working on

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behalf of authorizing pharmacies in obtaining their NPI numbers. NCPDP created outreach efforts to executive leaders of healthcare by creating the quarterly Executive Update newsletter and also created the Emergency Preparedness Committee after the tragic circumstances as a result of Hurricane Katrina. And the NCPDP Board of Trustees approved the Telecommunication Standard vD.0.

Cerney welcomed Beckley to the Chair position with a bit of humor.

“We know Bob is from Texas and everything is bigger in Texas,” Cerney joked. “So, we would like to present Bob with a Texas-sized gavel.” Cerney and NCPDP President, **Lee Ann Stember**, then dragged an oversized, wooden gavel (nicknamed Bubba) on to the stage, which Beckley quickly brandished and waved over his head.

The Board of Trustees oversees all Council activities and has final authority over all Council industry standardization development activities and the application of those standards for candidacy as American National Standards. The Board sets the strategic direction of the organization and is charged with the fiduciary responsibilities associated with operating the Council. The Board also appoints various standing and ad-hoc committees such as Executive Committee and the Standardization Committee.

About NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization with over 1500 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 75,000 pharmacies, and HCIda, “*The Prescriber Identity Solution*”. For more information about NCPDP Standards, Data Services, Educational Programs and Work Group meetings, go online at www.ncdp.org or call (480) 477-1000.

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