

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **NCPDP Provides Medicaid Agencies with HCIda™ Prescriber Database - Waives License Fee**

**Scottsdale, AZ** – After careful consideration and in an effort to streamline the transition from legacy prescriber identifiers to the NPI on the HIPAA named NCPDP Telecommunication Standard for pharmacy claims, the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) has announced that it is waiving the annual license fee on its HCIda™ Prescriber Database product for all Medicaid agencies.

The HCIda™ product is a relational database containing prescriber DEA numbers, state licenses, NPIs, multiple addresses and other prescriber information. It obtains prescriber NPIs from the CMS National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) only, the supplier of prescriber NPIs and primary data source. Providing NPPES data in a format useful for those processing Medicaid prescription drug claims solves a nagging problem for the prescription drug benefit industry which in many cases has been unable to obtain the correct NPI for prescribers.

The database will be provided free of charge for one year, with monthly updates. The offer is available immediately upon the signing of a subscription license. In return, Medicaid agencies agree to provide NCPDP through its technical partner, Ingenix, Inc. with a simple file of prescriber Medicaid IDs so that NCPDP may complete the NPI to Medicaid ID crosswalk needed for some agencies.

A not-for-profit ANSI-accredited standards development organization, NCPDP's mission is to provide standards to the pharmacy services sector. Part of that mission is to provide a "source of truth" for prescriber NPIs to ease the transition for pharmacies and other stakeholders involved in the prescription drug benefit.

The HCIda™ database was built specifically to solve the prescriber identifier problem that exists for the pharmacy services sector. Pharmacies and PBMs do not usually have business relationships with prescribers and utilizing the NPPES downloadable database effectively, requires significant technical expertise. NCPDP engaged Ingenix, Inc. in 2006 to aid in this effort.

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Using HCldea™ insures that Medicaid agencies:

- Have a proven DEA to NPI crosswalk and soon a Medicaid ID to NPI crosswalk for prescribers.
- Have only Type 1 NPIs identifying prescribers and do not mistakenly use Type 2 group practice NPIs for the prescriber – decreasing the number of rejected claims and possible service disruption.
- Can transition pharmacy claims from legacy identifiers to NPIs sooner and in a more orderly manner through the CMS Contingency Period.
- Can shorten the legacy-to-NPI transition period, minimizing the period in which Medicaid surveillance and utilization review activities are disrupted.

For more information, contact Robin Ebert at [rebert@ncdpd.org](mailto:rebert@ncdpd.org) or call 480-477-1000, ext. 118.

### **About NCPDP**

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization with over 1550 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 Pharmacy Database containing information and NPIs on the nation's 70,000 pharmacies, and HCldea™, *"The Prescriber Identity Solution"*. For more information about NCPDP Standards, Data Services, Educational Programs and Work Group meetings, go online at [www.ncdpd.org](http://www.ncdpd.org) or call (480) 477-1000.

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