



State of New Mexico
Medical Assistance Program Manual
Supplement



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TO: ALL PHARMACIES PARTICIPATING IN THE NEW MEXICO MEDICAID PROGRAM

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SUBJECTS: I. NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER
II. TAMPER-RESISTANT PRESCRIPTION PADS

This supplement contains important information for providers who prescribe drugs and for pharmacies filling prescriptions. The information below is intended to act as a reminder for two recent federal requirements.

I. THE PRESCRIBER'S NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER (NPI) MUST BE INCLUDED ON THE PHARMACY CLAIM FORM

The federal deadline for full implementation of NPI is May 23, 2008. Effective May 23rd, pharmacy claims will be rejected if they are not submitted with the prescriber NPI and with the appropriate prescriber ID qualifier (01). Currently approximately 9% of the pharmacy claims being filed with ACS do not contain the prescriber NPI.

Often, the pharmacy point-of-sale vendors can supply this information. Pharmacies may obtain NPIs directly from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) through a query-only database, known as the NPI Registry, found at the following website link:
<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/NPIRegistryHome.do>

NPIs are also available from CMS as a downloadable file at:
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/06a_DataDissemination.asp

There may be some prescribers who are technically not required to obtain NPI numbers, such as a physician who never bills for any of his or her services. This should be a rare occurrence. However, if a prescriber tells the pharmacy that he or she is not required to have an NPI number because the provider is “not a covered entity” under HIPAA, please contact the Medical Assistance Division at (505) 827-3171 for instructions on how to file the claim electronically. Otherwise, it is possible to file the claim on paper.

If a pharmacy already knows of prescribers for whom this will be the case, please contact the Medical Assistance Division in advance of the May 23rd deadline.

II. PRESCRIPTIONS ON PAPER MUST BE WRITTEN ON TAMPER RESISTANT PRESCRIPTION PADS

Effective April 1, 2008, at least one tamper resistant prescription feature is required for paper prescriptions for fee-for-service Medicaid recipients. Effective October 1, 2008 prescription orders must have all three features.

Faxed or telephoned prescriptions, as well as e-prescribing methods are considered tamper resistant and are not affected by the new requirements. Also, a pharmacy may fill a prescription on an emergency basis and may verify or obtain a tamper resistant version of the prescription within 72 hours.

The requirement does not apply to the following:

- Pharmacy claims paid by Medicaid managed care organizations or when the payment for prescriptions is included in an all-inclusive payment for an inpatient hospital stay.
- Nursing homes when a prescription is ordered by a practitioner in a patient’s medical chart which the medical staff then phones the order directly to a pharmacy. It does apply if an order is transcribed to a written prescription and is then taken to the pharmacy.
- Refills for an individual who has become eligible for Medicaid since the initial filling or previous refill. However, the requirements do apply if the individual receives Medicaid eligibility retroactively. In these cases, for any refills occurring on or after the Medicaid eligibility is established, the pharmacy must obtain a new, tamper-resistant prescription, obtain verbal confirmation of the prescription from the prescriber, or may obtain the prescription from the prescriber by facsimile or e-prescription.

Characteristics of Tamper Resistant Prescriptions

| Features | Examples |
|---|--|
| 1. One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pantograph screen displays background graphic (e.g. VOID) when copied• Holograms on the face of the prescription |
| 2. One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uniform background color in a standard background ink, such as blue or green, that shows when erasures or modification have been attempted• Chemical void preventing alteration by chemical washing. Exposure to ink solvent (e.g. Acetone) will cause “void” patterns to appear or cause a heavily stained appearance. |
| 3. One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper with words or symbols that are only seen when turned at an angle or paper that uses water marks• Anti-copy coin-activated will display security message when rubbed with a coin (on reverse of prescription)• Watermark with vendor-specified wording or design in background |

We appreciate your participation in the Medicaid program.

Should you have any questions on this information, please contact the Medical Assistance Division at (505) 827-3171.