



Arkansas Pharmacists Association

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August 24, 2007

Arkansas Medicaid to Have Downtime Saturday, August 25th

The Arkansas Medicaid claims processing system will be down for regular maintenance from 12:01AM, Saturday August 25th to 11:00AM, Sunday August 26th.

The EDS Pharmacy Help Desk will be available to provide eligibility verification from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on 8/25 a 8:00 AM until noon on 8/26. The Pharmacy Help Desk may be reached at (800) 707-3854 (toll-free) within Arkansas locally and out-of-state at (501) 374-6609, ext. 500. Arkansas Medicaid apologizes for any inconvenience.

CMS to Make Available NPI Database on September 4th

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that they will be making National Provider Identifier (NPI) data available, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), through an online NPI Registry on September 4, 2007 and approximately a week later through a downloadable file. Additional information on how to access the NPI Registry will be distributed when it is available.

NPI numbers are the new standard for identifying health care providers for the submission of claims. As a reminder, Arkansas Medicaid will begin rejecting claims on October 15th, which do not contain valid prescriber NPI numbers.

CMS Releases Tamper-Resistant Prescription Pad Guidance

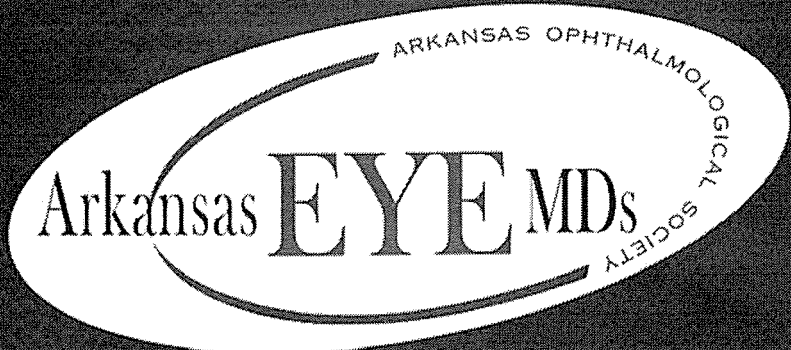
The new law requiring all Medicaid prescriptions to be written on tamper-proof prescription pads is scheduled to go in effect October 1, 2007. CMS recently issued the following guidance to the state Medicaid programs to instruct them to enforce this law.

All non-electronic prescriptions for Medicaid outpatient drugs must be executed on tamper-resistant pads in order for them to be reimbursable (electronic prescriptions, telephoned prescriptions, and fax prescriptions are not affected by the new law). CMS clarified that to be considered tamper resistant on **October 1, 2007** a prescription pad must contain **at least one** of the following three characteristics:

- one or more industry-recognized feature(s) designed to prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form; or
- one or more industry-recognized feature(s) designed to prevent the erasure or modification of information written on prescription by the prescriber; or
- one or more industry-recognized feature(s) designed to prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms.

However, beginning **October 1, 2008**, a prescription pad must contain **all three** characteristics to be considered tamper resistant.

APA is working with the Arkansas Medical Society to make sure physicians are aware of this new law. APA encourages pharmacists to assist in this effort by contacting their local physicians to make sure they will have tamper-proof prescription pads available by October 1, 2007.



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STATE AFFAIRS
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Deadline Delayed for Tamper-Resistant Prescription Pads for Medicaid Prescriptions

The October 1 requirement to use tamper-resistant prescription pads for Medicaid prescriptions has been **delayed for six months**.

On September 26, the House of Representatives approved H.R. 3668, a bill that includes the six-month delay. Late on September 27, the Senate passed a companion measure.

On Saturday, September 29, President George W. Bush signed the "Extenders Law," delaying the implementation date for **all paper Medicaid prescriptions to be written on tamper-resistant paper**. Arkansas Medicaid will follow federal guidance and not implement until April 1, 2008.

The original effective date of October 1 caused backlogged orders for compliant pads and little time for education and compliance for physicians, pharmacists and Medicaid beneficiaries.

The AOS encourages physicians to use this six month extension to adequately prepare for the implementation in the spring of 2008.

To be considered tamper-resistant on April 1, 2008, a prescription pad must contain at least **one of the following three** characteristics. There will be a later deadline, which is undetermined at this time, which will require all three characteristics.

They must include features designed to:

1. Prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form (Ex. Anti-mimic measures, such as high security watermark or copy VOID pantographs and color-shifting or Thermochromic ink;
2. Prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber (Ex. Anti-alteration measures, such as chemical stains or erasable ink backgrounds to reveal erasures or attempts to change written information);
3. Prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms (Ex. Anti-theft measures such as sequentially numbered blanks, duplicate or triplicate blanks, and control numbers).

Regardless of whether Medicaid is the primary or secondary payer of the prescription being filled, **this rule applies to all non-electronic Medicaid-covered outpatient drugs except:**

- * Refills of written prescriptions presented at a pharmacy before April 1, 2008.
- * Emergency fills of non-controlled or controlled dangerous substances for which a prescriber provides the pharmacy with a verbal, faxed, electronic, or written prescription on tamper-resistant paper within 72 hours after the date on which the prescription was filled.

* Drugs provided in nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded, and other federally specified institutional and clinical settings so long as those drugs are not billed separately to Medicaid, for example, those billed by an individual pharmacy provider. For purposes of this rule, "electronic prescriptions" include e-prescriptions transmitted to the pharmacy, prescriptions faxed to the pharmacy, or prescriptions communicated to the pharmacy by telephone by a prescriber.

Reimbursement of Cost of Prescription Pads

In a letter to State Medicaid directors, CMS advises that a State can elect to reimburse physicians for the cost of the prescription pads as an administrative expense.

Arkansas Medicaid realizes the burden this has caused physicians and wants to provide reimbursement for the purchase of these pads. However, a mechanism by which physicians can submit a claim for the cost of the pads has yet to be determined.

The Arkansas Medical Society is working closely with Medicaid to develop a method of reimbursement. The AOS will pass along any information it receives from AMS regarding this issue.

Special Points of Interest:

- Tamper-Resistant Prescription Pads for Medicaid Prescriptions
- AOS Fall Meeting
- People & Meetings/Events
- 2007 Regional Meeting

<https://www.medicaid.state.ar.us/InternetSolution/Provider/newprov.aspx>

Check out the above address for Arkansas updates as they are posted.

1-16-08