



Connecticut Department of Social Services  
Medical Assistance Program  
Provider Bulletin

PB 2007-58

September 2007

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**TO: Physician, Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, Dental Providers,  
Pharmacy Providers, Optometrists, Podiatrists, Hospitals, Nursing Facilities,  
Federally Qualified Health Centers and Clinics**

**SUBJECT: Tamper-Resistant Prescription Pad Requirement**

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform providers of the new federal Medicaid requirements regarding the use of tamper-resistant prescription pads for all written prescriptions presented on or after October 1, 2007. This applies **whether Medicaid is the primary or secondary payor** of the prescription being filled.

In order to comply with this law, **effective October 1, 2007**, a prescription pad must contain **at least one** of the following three characteristics:

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

The full requirement of this law goes into effect on **October 1, 2008**, when a prescription pad **must** contain **all** of the above **3** characteristics in order to be considered tamper-resistant. Examples in each category include but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Industry-standard features that meet the requirements for characteristic #1:
  - a. A latent, repetitive "void" pattern or the word "void" appearing across the entire front of the prescription blank when photocopied or scanned.
  - b. A blue or green background ink on the prescription blank that resists reproduction.
  - c. The word "illegal" appearing across the entire front of the prescription blank when photocopied or scanned.



- 2) Industry-standard features that meet the requirements for characteristic #2:
  - a. A chemical void protection on the prescription blank that prevents alteration by chemical washing.
  - b. The prescription blank may be made of quality safety paper that resists erasures and reproductions.
  - c. An area of opaque writing that disappears if the prescription blank is lightened.
  - d. Erasure protection on green or blue background on the front side of the prescription blank that resists alterations and erasures.
  - e. A feature printed in thermochromic ink that disappears or shows obvious tampering if the prescription blank is rubbed, scratched briskly, or if heat is applied.
  - f. Quantity check off boxes printed on the prescription blank with the following quantities listed and may include a space to designate the units referenced in the quantity boxes when the drug is not in tablet or capsule form:
    - 1-24
    - 25-49
    - 50-74
    - 75-100
    - 101-150
    - 151 and over
  
- 3) Industry-standard features that meet the requirements for characteristic #3:
  - a. A description of security features included on each prescription blank.
  - b. A custom or repetitive watermark on the backside of the prescription blank that can be only seen at a forty-five (45) degree angle. The watermark should bear the name of the company manufacturing the prescription blank or should bear the word "security".
  - c. Logos, defined as a symbol utilized by an individual, professional practice, professional association or hospital, appearing on the prescription blank. The upper left one (1) inch square of the prescription blank should be reserved for the logo.

Prescribers should store these tamper-resistant pads in a secure location, preferably under lock and key. It will be the responsibility of the prescriber to identify sources of supply and purchase these tamper-resistant pads. Loss or theft of the tamper-resistant prescription pads should be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities (local police, DCP Drug Control Division).



The tamper-resistant prescription pad policy applies to written prescriptions for Medicaid beneficiaries who become retroactively enrolled in the Medicaid Program.

Any prescription order forwarded from a nursing facility or an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded (ICF/MR) to a pharmacy via a paper document must comply with the tamper-resistant prescription pad policy, unless those drug products are included in the facility's per diem rate.

If a prescription order is given in a printed form along with discharge orders and/or a bill for patient services, and that printed material is forwarded to any individual, that prescription order must comply with the tamper-resistant prescription pad requirement.

**The tamper-resistant pad requirement does not apply to refills of written prescriptions presented at the pharmacy before October 1, 2007. In addition, the tamper-resistant pad requirement does not apply to e-prescriptions, faxed prescriptions, telephoned prescriptions, and emergency fills (when a prescriber provides a compliant written prescription within 72 hours after the emergency fill). The new requirement also does not apply to Medicaid Managed Care or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), either HUSKY A or HUSKY B.**

The Office of Quality Assurance will be enforcing this federal requirement, and any payment made for a prescription that does not comply with this requirement will be recouped by the Department. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) strongly supports both e-prescribing and the use of tamper-resistant prescription pads as these methods may reduce instances of unauthorized, improperly altered, and counterfeit prescriptions.

This bulletin and other program information can be found at [www.ctmedicalprogram.com](http://www.ctmedicalprogram.com).

Questions regarding this bulletin may be directed to the EDS Provider Assistance Center - Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at:

In-state toll free..... **800-842-8440** or

Out-of-state or in the

local Farmington, CT area ..... **860-409-4500**

EDS

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[http://www.ctmedicalprogram.com/bulletin/pb07\\_58.pdf](http://www.ctmedicalprogram.com/bulletin/pb07_58.pdf)

Check out the above address for Connecticut tamper resistant information updates.  
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