



**John Young,  
Deputy Director**

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
Department of Human Services  
Medical Assistance Program**

Dear Provider,

The Department of Human Services, along with the Department of Health, the RI Medical Society and the RI Pharmacists Association, is writing this letter to give guidance on changes set forth in the Iraq War Supplemental Appropriations bill, Public Law 110-28, Section 7002 (b) signed into law on May 25, 2007 pertaining to hand written prescriptions dispensed to Medicaid beneficiaries. The law states as of October 1, 2007 that any hand written prescription dispensed to a Medicaid beneficiary must be on tamper proof paper. The tamper proof paper must contain at least one of the following characteristics:



**Jack Hutson,  
Executive Director  
Rhode Island  
Pharmacists  
Association**

1. A watermark must be printed on the backside of the paper.
2. The word "VOID" will appear on the paper if copied.
3. The paper shall contain a feature that shows obvious tampering if exposed to chemical or attempted erasure.



**Catherine Cordy,  
Executive Director,  
Board of Pharmacy**

Exemptions to this law are as follows:

1. Prescriptions communicated electronically to the pharmacy from the prescriber either through e-prescribing or fax.
2. Prescriptions telephoned into the pharmacy.
3. Refills of prescriptions that were written prior to October 1, 2007.
4. Prescriptions for beneficiaries paid by a managed care entity.

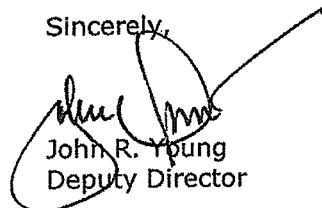


**Steve DeToy,  
Director of Public  
& Government  
Affairs**

Emergency fills for prescriptions written on non-tamper proof paper are permitted as long as the prescriber provides a verbal, faxed, electronic or compliant written prescription within 72 hours after the date on which the prescription was filled. This law applies to all out patient covered drugs, including over-the-counter drugs, where Medicaid is either the primary or secondary payer.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Paula J. Avarista, RPh, Chief of Pharmacy, at (401) 462-6390, [pavarista@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:pavarista@dhs.ri.gov). Please refer to the Department of Human Services website, [www.dhs.ri.gov](http://www.dhs.ri.gov), for further guidance and answers to some Frequently Asked Question, FAQs, on this subject.

Sincerely,

  
John R. Young  
Deputy Director

[http://www.dhs.state.ri.us/dhs/heacre/provsves/tamper\\_proff.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.ri.us/dhs/heacre/provsves/tamper_proff.pdf)

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

1-16-08