

Tamper-Resistant Prescriptions to be Required for Medicaid Reimbursement as of October 1, 2007

The emergency supplemental appropriations bill (Public Law No: 110-28) that was recently passed includes a provision that effective October 1, 2007 Medicaid outpatient drugs will be reimbursable only if non-electronic written prescriptions are executed on a tamper-resistant pad. On Monday, June 18, 2007, state pharmacy associations represented by Rebecca Snead, EVP/CEO of the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA), and Ernie Boyd, executive director of the Ohio Pharmacists Association, expressed the concerns of pharmacists nationwide to CMS Acting Administrator Norwalk and key staff in Washington, DC. Their comments focused on the potentially negative impact on patient care if clear guidance was not given to the states regarding not holding pharmacists accountable for prescriber non-compliance with these provisions and if sufficient time was not given for prescribers to become aware of this new requirement. In addition, this week state pharmacy associations have been exploring various legislative remedies with members of Congress.

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