

**Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
General Provider Transmittal No. 63

August 31, 2007

- TO:** Physicians, Pharmacies, Hospitals, Clinics, Nursing Homes, Intermediate Care Facilities for people with Mental Retardation, Residential Treatment Centers for children under 21, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Midwives, Dentists, Podiatrists
- FROM:** Charles E. Lehman, Exec. Director, Office of Operations, Eligibility & Pharmacy
Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director, Office of Health Services
- NOTE:** Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.
- RE:** Important Message: Tamper-resistant Prescriptions Required Effective October 1, 2007

New Pharmacy Requirements

Recently enacted federal law requires State Medicaid Program providers to use tamper-resistant prescription pads. The law requires that all written, non-electronic prescriptions for Medicaid outpatient drugs must be executed on tamper-resistant pads in order for them to be reimbursed by the Medicaid Program. In order to be considered tamper-resistant by October 1, 2007, a prescription pad must contain at least one of the following three characteristics:

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

Beginning October 1, 2008, a prescription pad must contain all three characteristics to be considered tamper-resistant.

The Tamper-Resistant Pad Requirement DOES NOT APPLY:

- when a prescription is communicated by the prescriber to the pharmacy electronically, verbally, or by fax (please note that controlled substances require a written prescription);
- when a managed care organization pays for the prescription;

- to refills of written prescriptions presented at a pharmacy before October 1, 2007; or
- when drugs are provided in institutional settings where such drugs are not separately reimbursed; in Maryland this includes inpatient hospitals and intermediate care facilities for people with mental retardation.

Prescription Blank Ordering Information

A uniform layout, format, or style is not required. Prescribers may customize the layout and use the prescription pads for non-Medicaid patients. Examples of security features include:

- a blue or green background color that resists reproduction,
- resistance to erasure and alterations, and
- the word "void" or "illegal" appearing on a photocopy of the prescription form.

The security features should be listed on the prescription form.

All medical providers who prescribe drugs to Medicaid recipients are responsible for obtaining blanks from a vendor. A list of vendors is attached to this transmittal and can also be found on our website at <http://dhmh.state.md.us/mma/mpap/> and on the Maryland Pharmaceutical Society's page at <http://mdpharmsociety.org/inthenews.htm>. These vendors have been approved by other state Medicaid programs that have tamper-resistant prescription pad requirements which meet or exceed the minimum standards set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This is not an exhaustive list of vendors. It is the responsibility of the prescriber to confirm with the vendor that the prescription pads meet the standards listed above.

Information for Pharmacists

Pharmacists filling prescriptions for Medicaid participants are required to ensure compliance with the tamper-resistant prescription pad standards. All prescriptions dated October 1, 2007, or later must have at least one of the security features listed above. By October 1, 2008, all prescriptions must have all three of these features. These requirements apply whether Medicaid is the primary or secondary payer of the prescription.

After the respective dates, any pharmacist receiving a hard copy of a prescription for a Medicaid recipient not in compliance with tamper-resistant standards must verify the prescription order with the prescriber and record on the original prescription. This should include the person contacted and the date verified. If a prescriber continues to use non-compliant prescription forms, the pharmacist should report the prescriber to the local Medicaid Office. These requirements do not apply if the prescription is paid for by a managed care organization. Because the federal guidelines apply to all states, prescriptions presented in Maryland from another state must be compliant with the guidelines and are subject to the same requirements.

Maryland Medicaid will pay for a 72-hour emergency supply on a non-compliant written prescription to allow the prescriber time to provide a verbal, faxed, electronic, or compliant written prescription.

Questions concerning this transmittal should be directed to the manager for Pharmacy Services at 410-767-1455.

Vendors for Tamper-Resistant Prescription Pads

	Names	Address	City	St.	Zip	Telephone	Fax	E-mail Address	Website
1	American Security Rx	10755-F Scripps Poway Parkway, #422	San Diego	CA	92131	(877) 290-4262			www.americansecurityrx.com
2	Buckeye Printing	4204 Hammond Drive	Winter Haven	FL	33881	863-324-2269	863-325-8799	buckeyeprt@aol.com	http://www.buckeyeprinting.net/
3	Data Business Systems	230 Rt. 206 S. Bldg. 3, Unit 1	Flanders	NJ	07836	973-252-1236	800-778-6247	info@databusinesssystems.com	http://www.databusinesssystems.com/
4	Feld Printing	6806 Main Street	Cincinnati	OH	45244	800-543-4642	513-271-6828		http://www.feldprinting.com/
5	Histacount	301 Grove Road	Thorofare	NJ	08086	800-645-5220	800-332-5502	bqrzib@rapidforms.com	https://www.histacount.com/
6	International Security Products	PO Box 1258	Templeton	CA	93465	(805) 238-2503	(805) 238-7213	info@isp-vft.com	www.isp-vft.com
7	Medical Forms & Graphics, Inc.	107 River Drive	Darien	GA	31305	800-997-3575	800-982-9834	medforms@iglide.net	http://medicaforms.com/
8	Medi-Promotions (Medi-Scripts)	500 Rt. 17 South #308	Hasbrouck Heights	NJ	07604	800-387-3636	201-727-9807	steve.klein@medipromotions.com	http://www.medipromotions.com/
9	Meditec	P.O. Box 3663	Kingston	NY	12402	800-242-4797	845-338-8728	Ed94742@aol.com	http://meditecproducts.com/
10	Micro Format, Inc.	830-3 Seton Court	Wheeling	IL	60090	800-333-0549	847-520-0197	mformat@wwa.com	http://www.rxpaper.com/
11	Minute Man Printers	3111 N. 29th Avenue	Phoenix	AZ	85017	888-881-8318	888-881-8319	fivestar@minutemanprinters.com	www.minutemanprinters.com
12	National Rx Security	535 2nd Street SW	Vero Beach	FL	32962	800-510-1050	800-500-3060	dmmcaffery@nationalrx.net	http://www.nationalrxsecurity.com/
13	Printco	1434 Progress Lane	Omro	WI	54963	920-685-5662	800-541-5967	sales@printco.com	http://www.printco.com/
14	Pyramid Checks Printing, Inc.	208 Riverside Industrial Parkway	Portland	ME	04103	800-782-8215	800-891-5707	dale@pyramidchecks-printing.com	http://www.pyramidchecks-printing.com/home/login.asp?
15	RapidForms	301 Grove Road	Thorofare	NJ	08086	(800) 645-5220	(800) 332-5502	csrequests@rapidforms.com service@sycom.com	www.histacount.com www.sycom.com
16	Rx Security	99 Rocky Lake Drive, Unit #5	Bedford, CANADA	NS	B4A-T23	800-667-9723	866-667-9723	rebecca@rxsecurity.com	http://www.rxsecurity.com/
17	Strategic Business Forms	2715 NE 36th Avenue	Ocala	FL	34478	800-321-3676	352-369-0200	sbf@mpinet.net	http://www.printsolutions.com/
18	Superior Press	11930 Hamden Place	Santa Fe Springs	CA	90670	(562) 948-1866	(562) 949-1909		www.superior-press.com
19	VerifyFirst Technologies	1760 Commerce Way	Paso Robles	CA	93446	607-266-9839	607-266-8018	dghuckle@aol.com	http://www.verifyfirst.com/