In an effort to give timely notice to the pharmacy community concerning important pharmacy topics, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s (DHMH) **Maryland Pharmacy Program** (MPP) has developed the **Maryland Pharmacy Program Advisory**. To expedite information timely to the pharmacy and prescriber communities, an email network has been established which incorporates the email lists of the Maryland Pharmacists Association, EPIC, CARE, Long Term Care Consultants, headquarters of all chain drugstores and prescriber associations and organizations. It is our hope that the information is disseminated to all interested parties. If you have not received this email through any of the previously noted parties or via DHMH, please contact the MPP representative at 410-767-1455.

- Claims Processing System to Be Temporarily Out-of-Service
- New Fax Number for Prior Authorizations

**Point-of-Service Claims Processing System Will Go Temporarily Off-line**

Advisory 31 for pharmacists, dated Thursday, December 21, 2006, discussed the period of time that the DHMH point-of-service claims processing system would be down. The beginning time for the planned outage, Saturday evening, February 3, 2007 at 11:00 p.m., will remain the same. However, we now estimate the start-up time to be approximately 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 4, 2007.

**New Fax Number for Forms to be Prior Authorized**

ACS will have a new fax number for prior authorization request forms that it will process. This will affect prior authorizations for all of the DHMH pharmacy programs, except the managed care organizations (MCOs). ACS’s fax phone number is 1-866-440-9345 and will be effective on February 4, 2007.