



# MARYLAND MEDICAID PHARMACY PROGRAM

No. 46  
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## ADVISORY

*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.*

- **NPI Information for Prescribers**
- **Help Needed from Prescribers**

**National Provider Identifier (NPI) Information for Prescribers**  
**Maryland Medicaid (MA)**  
**Kidney Disease Program (KDP)**  
**Maryland AIDS Drug Assistance Program (MADAP)**  
**Breast & Cervical Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment Program (BCCDT)**

**Effective May 23, 2008**

- The pharmacy point-of-sale (POS) claims processor for the above Programs will **mandate** the prescriber's NPI number in order to process and adjudicate a claim.
- Specific information on how to submit the prescriber NPI on a claim is available online at <http://www.mdrxprograms.com/>.
- Pharmacies claims submitted without the prescriber's NPI number will be denied. The NPI field previously contained the physician's DEA number. Therefore, pharmacy claims submitted with the physician's DEA number will be denied.
- The pharmacy POS claims processor will validate the prescriber NPI for all pharmacy claims. Pharmacy claims for controlled substances (Schedule II - V) will be subject to additional verification to determine that the prescriber's NPI number corresponds to a valid DEA number.

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- For prescribers that have yet to obtain an NPI number from CMS, information about this process and a registry of NPI numbers already assigned is available online at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>
  - Pharmacies can obtain a copy of the revised Payer Specification Sheet for each of the above programs online at <http://www.mdrxprograms.com/>.

Managed Care Organizations will be notifying pharmacies directly of their NPI requirements.

### **Help Needed from Prescribers - Specificity Encouraged on Prescriptions**

In order to assist pharmacists, it is requested that prescribers write specific dosing instructions on prescriptions whenever possible, and not just indicate "use as directed." Pharmacists are required to input an exact number for the days supply when submitting claims for any prescription to pharmacy benefit managers. If they don't know the exact frequency, it may be hard to determine for how long a medicine is being prescribed. Without this information there could be a delay in the dispensing of the prescription to the patient. All prescription insurance companies require an accurate days supply be transmitted on the claim.