



MARYLAND MEDICAID PHARMACY PROGRAM

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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.

PHYSICIAN RUBBER STAMPED SIGNATURES ON CLAIMS FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS

COMAR 10.09.03.01 defines a prescription as "**an original order signed by the prescriber**". Furthermore, the Maryland Board of Pharmacy does not recognize a prescription or prescription order with a rubber stamped signature of the prescriber as valid.

Therefore the Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy Program (MMPP) considers any prescription claim submitted for payment with a rubber stamped signature of the prescriber as invalid and not reimbursable under current State regulations. MMPP and the Office of Inspector General will be auditing prescriptions to verify that they are not signed using a rubber stamp. Those prescriptions found to have been signed using a rubber stamp, will be reversed and all funds paid to the pharmacy provider will be recovered. In the event that the recipient presents to you a prescription with a rubber stamped signature of the prescriber, you should contact the prescriber to verify the prescription. Note this on the prescription where it can be viewed for an audit—front or back as your system allows. As always, you can dispense a 72-hour emergency supply, if necessary.