




Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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**MassHealth
All Provider Bulletin 168
October 2007**

TO: All Providers Participating in MassHealth
FROM: Tom Dehner, Medicaid Director 
RE: Six-Month Delay for the Requirement for Tamper-Resistant, Written Prescriptions

***New Effective Date
for Requirement***

In September 2007, MassHealth issued All Provider Bulletin 167 informing MassHealth providers about a new federal law requiring prescriptions for Medicaid-covered outpatient drugs to be tamper-resistant by October 1, 2007.

The federal government has delayed this requirement for six months, pursuant to the health care extender bill H.R. 3668, which was signed by President George W. Bush on September 29, 2007. **MassHealth will not require tamper-resistant prescriptions until the new federal requirement becomes effective on April 1, 2008.**

Additional Resources

Below are resource sites for information about the tamper-resistant prescription requirement from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The materials referenced below were published by CMS before health care extender bill H.R. 3688 was signed and therefore contain an October 1, 2007 effective date. Except for the effective date, which is now April 1, 2008, the information about this requirement remains relevant.

*Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
(CMS) Letter to State Medicaid Directors (SMDL #07-012, 8/17/2007).*
The full letter is available at:
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SMDL/downloads/SMD081707.pdf>.

CMS Frequently Asked Questions Concerning the Tamper-Resistant Prescription Pad Law
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DeficitReductionAct/Downloads/MIPTRPFAQs9122007.pdf>

Questions

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900, e-mail your inquiry to providersupport@mahealth.net, or fax your inquiry to 617-988-8974.
