




Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
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MassHealth
All Provider Bulletin 180
September 2008

TO: All Providers Participating in MassHealth
FROM: Tom Dehner, Medicaid Director 
RE: Tamper-Resistant Prescription Update

Background

This bulletin provides important information about compliance with the Medicaid tamper-resistant prescription requirements, and expands upon information described in MassHealth All Provider Bulletin 174, issued April 2008.

Currently, a handwritten or computer-generated prescription must contain a feature in at least one of the following three characteristic categories to be compliant with CMS requirements. By October 1, 2008, handwritten or printed prescriptions must contain at least one industry-recognized feature within each of these three categories, to prevent:

- 1) unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form;
- 2) the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber; and
- 3) the use of counterfeit prescription forms.

No one feature may be counted twice.

**New Guidance about
Computer Generated
Prescriptions**

CMS' prior guidance for printed prescriptions generated from EMRs or ePrescribing applications stated that special copy-resistant paper would likely be required for printed prescriptions to be in compliance as of October 1, 2008. CMS has clarified this statement, and is now stating that while special paper may be used to achieve copy resistance, it is not necessary. EMR or ePrescribing-generated prescriptions may be printed on plain paper, and be fully compliant with all three categories of tamper resistance, provided they contain at least one feature from each of the three categories.

Additional Information

CMS is posting educational material for prescribers and pharmacists on their Web site at www.cms.hhs.gov, and has updated the document "Top Questions about Tamper-Resistant Prescriptions," to reflect these

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Additional Information
(cont.)

clarifications. MassHealth also posted these questions and answers on our Web site for your convenience at <http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/masshealth/provlibrary/tprxfaq.pdf>.

The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) issued a letter to Medicaid directors regarding industry standards for these features. This document is posted at http://www.nacds.org/user-assets/pdfs/gov_affairs/Issues/Tamper_Resist/FinalLtrMedicaidDrtrsTRP_P07_17_08.doc

All Provider Bulletin 174 (Massachusetts Implementation of Tamper-Resistant Prescription Requirements), is posted at http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/masshealth/bull_2008/all-174.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.
