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Pharmacy Facts

MassHealth Pharmacy Program

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Implementation of Tamper-Resistant Prescriptions Delayed

State Medicaid Program Directors reported today that the President has signed the health care extender bill H.R. 3668, which - among other things - delays the implementation of the tamper-resistant prescription law by six months.

This law was scheduled to go into effect today but, with the six-month delay, pushes the new effective date to April 1, 2008. An excerpt from HR 3668 follows:

H.R. 3668

SEC. 5. 6-MONTH DELAY IN REQUIREMENT TO USE TAMPER-RESISTANT PRESCRIPTION PADS UNDER MEDICAID.

Effective as if included in the enactment of section 7002(b) of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 110-28, 121 Sta. 187), paragraph (2) of such section is amended by striking "September 30, 2007" and inserting "March 31, 2008."

Please note that MassHealth issued All Provider Bulletin 167: Requirement for Tamper-Resistant Written Prescriptions (September 2007) stating that these requirements would start on Oct, 1, 2007. Due to this new legislation, **MassHealth will not require tamper-resistant prescriptions until the federal requirements become effective on April 1, 2008.**

An updated bulletin will be issued shortly that will include the new date and any other pertinent information.