[www.mass.gov/masshealth/pharmacy](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pharmacy)



**Number 34**

**March 21, 2008**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Editor: Vic Vangel **•** Contributors: Chris Burke, Gary Gilmore, Paul Jeffrey, James Monahan, Chuck Young **•** | |
| **Tamper-Resistant Prescription Requirements**  Tamper-resistant prescription requirements are being phased in over the next seven months.  Effective April 1, 2008, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will require that all Medicaid prescription blanks incorporate at least **one** of the characteristics listed below. To be considered tamper resistant after October 1, 2008, prescription blanks must include **all** three of the following characteristics:   * one or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form; * one or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber; and * one or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms.   For more information about tamper-resistant requirements, go to the CMS Web site at [http://www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/) The CMS Web site also includes recently updated information that may be of value to health facilities using tamper-resistant paper.  MassHealth has met with representatives from pharmacy and medical organizations to develop the characteristics of a tamper-resistant blank that would meet the federal requirements and be easily used by all providers. Prescription blanks must satisfy  tamper-resistant requirements before MassHealth is able to pay the corresponding claim. | To help determine whether a prescription complies with tamper-resistant requirements, three examples are listed below. Note that these are only some examples of tamper-resistant features. Pharmacies should fill prescriptions that are compliant under the CMS rules.   * a heat sensitive feature that will either change color or disappear and then reappear when rubbed (e.g., sensing imprint or thermochromic ink); * erasure protection, such that the prescription has a background that resists alteration and erasure (e.g., special security paper); * use of a latent, repetitive, printed word “Void” that will appear across the front of the prescription if it is scanned or photocopied. This feature must be patterned in such a way as not to obscure prescribing information.   Exceptions to the tamper-resistant requirements include prescriptions that are   * electronic, verbal, or faxed; * reimbursed through a MassHealth managed care organization (MCO); * for drugs reimbursed as part of a bundled rate; and * Refilled when the original prescription was filled before April 1, 2008.   Emergency fills are allowed as long as a prescriber provides a verbal, faxed, electronic, or compliant written prescription within 72 hours.  MassHealth does not plan to endorse specific suppliers of tamper-resistant blanks. The Massachusetts Medical Society, however, has posted some Web sites to help providers find vendors for tamper-resistant blanks. For more information, go to their Web site at [www.massmed.org/rx](http://www.massmed.org/rx). |

Please direct any questions or comments (or to be taken off of this fax distribution) to

**Victor Moquin** of ACS at 617-423-9830.