



North Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance

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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

William W. Lawrence, Jr., M.D., Acting Director

February 18, 2008

Dear Provider,

In 2007, Congress enacted Section 7002(b) of PL. 110-28 of the Iraq War Supplemental Appropriations Bill. This provision requires all Medicaid prescriptions to be written on "tamper-resistant" pads/paper in order to be eligible for federal reimbursement to Medicaid. While this is a federal law, there is not a single national regulation. Each State Medicaid Agency must implement its own requirements regarding what tamper-resistant features will be required in that state. The N.C. Division of Medical Assistance has reviewed the recommendations of industry and of states that currently use tamper-resistant prescription pads/paper. The Division has chosen security features that are most economical and implementable within the short time frame available to comply with the Federal law.

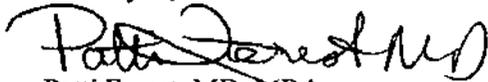
Beginning on April 1, 2008, all prescription pads/paper for prescriptions written for Medicaid fee-for-service recipients are required to have at least one of the features from any of the three characteristics listed in the Division's September 6, 2007 guidance document. This guidance document may be referenced at <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma/TamperResistantPrescriptionPads.pdf>.

By October 1, 2008, prescription pads/paper will be required to have one feature from each of the three characteristics (for a total of three features) listed in the Division's September 6, 2007 guidance document.

The N.C. Division of Medical Assistance encourages providers to implement all security features by April 1, 2008 if possible in order to avoid wasting old pads/paper and reordering and using new pads/paper with the additional features prior to October 1, 2008. Providers who write prescriptions for Medicaid recipients should contact their printer to secure an appropriate supply of prescription pads or paper that will meet April 1, 2008 requirements and begin using this paper prior to April 1, 2008. Orders may take up to 4 weeks to process.

If you or your printer/vendor requires additional information, please refer to http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma/pharmacy/president_delay_pad_requirement.html. This site provides a description of the required security features outlined above.

Thank you,


Patti Forest, MD, MBA
Medical Director