

Action Needed on Tamper - Resistance Prescription Pad

There continues to be significant concern regarding the implementation of the new Medicaid requirement that handwritten Medicaid prescriptions be written on tamper-resistant prescription pads despite the six months delay in implementation to April 1, 2008. The primary issue is the continued inability of the State Medicaid Directors to provide adequate clarification to the providers/pharmacists in their states.

ACP is working in collaboration with the AMA and other national specialty societies to get adequate clarification.

Specific areas in need of clarification:

- Which beneficiaries the requirement applies to and who is exempt?
- What prescription pads qualify under the specific state rules? This is a real problem since physicians don't know what to use, and pharmacists have no idea whether a script that is given to them would qualify as tamper-proof under the state rule. This has the potential to significantly disrupt access to an already, highly vulnerable population.

The AMA is encouraging all state's medical societies to contact their local Medicaid Directors and request that guidance be issued as soon as possible.

ACP encourages our Chapters to work in collaboration with local medical societies or contact their state's Medicaid Director to get clarification.

We will continue to provide you with information on this issue as it becomes available.

If you have any questions on these or other topics, please contact Shuan Tomlinson at 800-338-2746 ext. 4547 or by email at stomlinson@acponline.org.

To access recent and past state health policy reports go to the State Health Policy section on the Chapter Leadership Network (CLN) website or click on:
http://www.acponline.org/cln/health_policy.htm.

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