

Medicare Rx Update: November 27, 2006

E1 Enhancements Approved by NCPDP...

NCPDP Work Group recently approved several enhancements to the TrOOP Facilitator (E1) System. One important change to the existing E1 request will be implemented on December 1, 2006. Beginning December 1, 2006, Pharmacists MUST INPUT at least the first four letters of the patient's Last Name when searching on a Cardholder ID (i.e., SSN, Medicare A/B ID, or Railroad Retirement Board #). This new criteria increases the likelihood of a successful match; however, if you do not include at least the first four letters of the last name, the existing E1 will respond with "NO PATIENT MATCH FOUND." Please note...pharmacists should enter the full last name of patients with less than four letters in their last name.

Additionally, specifications for the Enhanced E1 will be released to software vendors on December 1. Pharmacies should contact their individual software vendors to find out when the Enhanced E1 will be available in their pharmacy systems. CMS has facilitated communications between the TrOOP Facilitator contractor and software vendors to effectuate implementation of the Enhanced E1 as soon as possible. Please look to this space for more details on the Enhanced E1 in the coming days and weeks.

...along with Standardized Plans to Pharmacy Claims Messaging

The NCPDP Work Group also approved standardized claims response messages to supplement NCPDP reject codes. With Plans providing more explicit information at the point of sale, pharmacists will be able to properly fill more prescriptions while minimizing the number of times they need to call Plans. The new messaging may indicate if a drug is a non formulary product (including covered product alternatives), requires a prior authorization, exceeds plan limitations, and more. Furthermore, Plans will now be sending transition messages that pharmacists can pass on to the beneficiary at the point of sale.

CMS expects that Part D plans implement an appropriate strategy that achieves the goal of the industry consensus on messaging as expeditiously as practicable.

IMPORTANT: Special Pharmacy Open Door Forum next week will highlight E1 Enhancements and COB...

CMS will host a Special Pharmacy Open Door Forum on "Preparing Pharmacists for Part D in 2007" on December 4, 2006 at 2:00 PM EST. We will use this forum to discuss pharmacy coordination of benefits issues, Part D references and more. Slides will be available on December 1, 2006 at www.cms.hhs.gov/pharmacy.

To participate by phone dial 1-800-837-1935 and reference conference ID 2228370. Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services click here <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html>. To participate in person your RSVP is required. Please send your name, organization and telephone number to PHARMACYODF-L@cms.hhs.gov by December 1, 2006 at 2:00 EST. You may listen to an encore recording of this call that can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and entering the Conference ID beginning 2 hours after the call has ended. The recording will expire after 3 business days.

The Medicare Pharmacist Contact Line is Operational Once Again...

Effective immediately, pharmacists may call the Medicare Pharmacist Contact Line (1-866-835-7595) for immediate assistance with certain Part D questions. Using this line, pharmacists can determine plan enrollment status as well as whether the beneficiary is eligible for a LIS co-pay. Remember, when calling this number, you must provide the beneficiary's name, Medicare ID, date of birth and address.

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