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mbruce@ncpdp.org, 480.477.1000, X144**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****NCPDP Announces Opportunities for Specialty Pharmacy Stakeholders to Support Standardization Efforts that Speed Time to Therapy**

SCOTTSDALE, AZ – September 18, 2018 – Following a successful first meeting of its Specialty Pharmacy Work Group, NCPDP is encouraging interested industry stakeholders to participate in its multi-stakeholder, collaborative industry forums to help support standardization efforts to shorten time to therapy for specialty pharmacy patients. Standardization can improve processing, provide important clinical and administrative efficiencies, and improve the patient experience.

Here are three ways healthcare industry stakeholders can support standardization efforts in specialty pharmacy:

- **Register for Complimentary Webinar on How to Get Involved, October 5th at 1:00 p.m. ET**
NCPDP's Work Group 18 (WG18) Specialty Pharmacy Work Group Co-Chairs will host an informational webinar to share information on the activities of the work group and how non-members and members can contribute their experience, expertise and perspectives to standardize the complex, manual transactions that delay patients from getting specialty medications. Register for this complimentary webinar on October 5th at 1:00 p.m.
ET: <https://www.ncpdp.org/Education/Webinar-upcoming.aspx?ID=120>.
- **Participate in NCPDP's WG18 Specialty Pharmacy Task Groups Calls**
Task group meetings are generally held monthly via teleconference. Task group meetings are open to NCPDP members and non-members – all industry stakeholders who are interested in working together to solve industry challenges. There are four (4) WG18 Specialty Pharmacy Task Groups: **Stakeholder Outreach and Education Task Group; Benefit Coverage Identification Task Group; Specialty Pharmacy Data Exchange Task Group** and **Specialty Requirements for ePrescribing Task Group**. To join a task group, visit [NCPDP's Collaborative Workspace](#) and register and select the task group(s) for which you wish to participate.
- **Attend NCPDP's WG18 Specialty Pharmacy Meeting, November 9th in Charlotte, NC**
NCPDP's WG18 Specialty Pharmacy will hold its second meeting during NCPDP's quarterly Joint Technical Work Group Meetings, November 7-9, in Charlotte, North Carolina. The meeting is open to NCPDP members and non-members. [Online registration](#), which includes access to all work groups meeting at the event, is open until October 26, 2018.

About NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization with more than 1,500 members representing virtually every sector of the pharmacy services industry. Our diverse membership provides leadership and healthcare business solutions through education and standards, created using the consensus building process. NCPDP has been named in federal legislation, including HIPAA, MMA, and HITECH. NCPDP members have created standards such as the Telecommunication Standard and Batch Standard, the SCRIPT Standard for ePrescribing, the Manufacturers Rebate Standard and more to improve communication within the pharmacy industry. Our data products include dataQ®, a robust database of information on more than 80,000 pharmacies, resQ™, an industry pharmacy credentialing resource, and HCldea®, an innovative prescriber database that provides continually updated information on more than 2.5 million prescribers. NCPDP's RxReconn® is a legislative tracking product for real-time monitoring of pharmacy-related state and national legislative and regulatory activity. For more information about NCPDP Standards, Data Services, Products, Educational Programs and Work Group meetings, go online at <http://www.ncpdp.org> or call 480.477.1000.

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