NCPDP Recommendations for Standardized Communications to Address the Opioid Epidemic

Regulation and Adoption of Opioid Prescription Restrictions

- Since 2015, multiple states have enacted legislation that imposes some type of prescribing limit (including days supply and Morphine milligram equivalency (MME)), guidance or requirements on prescriptions in an effort to combat the opioid crisis. In addition to existing legislation, the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act of 2018 requires that all state Medicaid agencies direct both fee-for-service and Managed Care Organizations to implement opioid edits related to MME being less than subsequent fills, retrospective or prospective DUR with concomitant benzodiazepine and/or antipsychotic therapy.
- Industry stakeholders have independently implemented opioid programs to comply with the legislation and regulations.
- Inconsistency in implementation has created challenges throughout the pharmacy supply chain for providing patients access to needed medication in a timely manner.

NCPDP Recommendations to Address Communication and Processes Presented by the Opioid Epidemic

- NCPDP has publicly available guidance for industry adopted transaction standards such as electronic prescribing and claims billing.
- The guidance accommodates both expedited patient access to needed pain medication, as well as, aid in identifying opioid misuse and/or abuse scenarios.
- The relevant NCPDP guidance, as referenced below, is currently in use by many stakeholders in the industry. This guidance standardizes the communications among stakeholders regarding certain opioid scenarios. The recommendations improve prescriber, pharmacy and payer workflows while being mindful of patient care and safety.

NCPDP Resources Currently Available

- [NCPDP Telecommunication Standard Version D.0 and above Questions, Answers and Editorial Updates Document](#)
- [Controlled Substance - Quantity Prescribed White Paper](#)
- [NCPDP SCRIPT Implementation Recommendations](#)
- NCPDP has a number of task groups that can address specific questions your organizations may have which are not covered by current guidance. NCPDP membership is not a requirement for participation in NCPDP Task Groups.
- Additional resources are available via membership in NCPDP.

The opioid crisis is one of the major healthcare issues facing the nation, and it may only be solved by working together. NCPDP welcomes the opportunity to work with all stakeholders as they tackle this healthcare crisis. NCPDP is here to help.

Questions can be sent to StateSupport@ncpdp.org.

The Forum: NCPDP is the multi-stakeholder problem solving forum for healthcare and ANSI-accredited standards developer for the pharmacy services sector. NCPDP provides the proven forum and process for diverse healthcare stakeholders to work   together for the common good. Industry solutions include standards and guidance for real-time claims adjudication, eligibility   verification, payment reconciliation, HIPAA, medication history and patient safety, uniform ID cards, electronic prescribing, electronic   prior authorization, REMS and more.

For More Information, please visit www.NCPDP.org