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## NCPDP Health Care Identification Card Fact Sheet Pharmacy and/or Combination ID Card

The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) is an American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-accredited Standards Development Organization. There are over 1,600 NCPDP members representing chain and community pharmacies, manufacturers, payers and others with a vested interest in the industry such as software vendors. This Fact Sheet relates to the current NCPDP *Health Care Identification Card Pharmacy and/or Combination ID Card Implementation Guide Version 5.0* (“The NCPDP Guide”). Information on obtaining The NCPDP Guide is available at <http://www.ncdp.org/Membership>.

The purpose of The NCPDP Guide is to provide parameters for utilizing an ANSI approved health care ID card standard which clearly and consistently defines the information and format required by the pharmacy provider. NCPDP has adopted the ANSI INCITS 284 standard titled *Identification Cards – Health Care Identification Cards* as the basis for a “Pharmacy and/or Combination ID Card Standard.” The NCPDP Guide defines the pharmacy information placed on the health ID card that is used to adjudicate claims at the time of service thereby improving service levels for clients and patients. The NCPDP Guide also addresses consolidating information on one card that may have previously required multiple cards.

The NCPDP Guide requires the minimum necessary information that must be included and lists additional information that may be included in specific situations. The NCPDP Guide was designed to reflect available technologies and current industry practices and is updated accordingly. The NCPDP Guide also identifies information that was considered for inclusion on the card, but was intentionally omitted. (See Excluded Data Elements).

### I. Mandatory Information for all Cards

A font size of eight (8) points or greater must be used when printing mandatory data; font style should clearly differentiate letters vs. numbers (e.g., alpha “O” vs. numeric “0” and alpha “I” and numeric “1”).

### II. Pharmacy-only ID Cards

Pharmacy-only ID cards are used solely to provide information about pharmacy benefits.

#### A. Front of Pharmacy-only ID Card Requirements:

1. **Card issuer name or logo.** The name or logo of the benefit administrator issuing the identification card. This information is to be located at the top of the card.
2. **Insured’s identification number.** This element is intended to identify the cardholder and to correspond with the data submitted in a prescription claim-processing transaction. This field should NOT be left blank. The cardholder ID is to be left justified on the ID card. Enumeration of cardholders should follow all appropriate laws and practices regarding the use of the Social Security Number (SSN). Instructions or directions regarding the ID, such as “see member for SSN” are NOT to appear in the essential information window of the ID

cards.

3. **Complete electronic transaction routing information.** The routing information must include the ANSI Issuer Identification Number (IIN) or NCPDP issued IIN (RxIIN), and the Processor Control (RxPCN) and Group Numbers (RxGRP) when required by the benefit administrator for proper adjudication of claims. The order of the data must be as indicated and no other data may be interspersed between these data elements when printing pharmacy ID cards. To conserve vertical space on the ID card, the IIN or RxIIN and the RxPCN may be printed on the same line. This information is left margin justified.
4. **Card Issuer Identifier.** The purpose of the card issuer ID is to have a unique identifier for all health plans; however, the pharmacy industry uses the RxIIN (required), RxPCN (situational) and RxGRP (situational) for identification of the pharmacy benefit plan. The INCITS 284 Standard mandates the use of the card issuer ID. Since the NCPDP implementation guide is based on the INCITS 284 Standard, NCPDP currently requires the use of a valid HIPAA Health Plan Identifier (HPID) or Other Entity Identifier (OEID) as the card issuer ID.
  - Since self-funded health plans are required to be enumerated, the card issuer ID field must contain their HPID.
  - For employers or other entities that are fully insured (not at risk), the card issuer ID field must contain the HPID or OEID of the insurance entity.
  - All other card issuing entities are encouraged to obtain an OEID to be used in the card issuer ID field.
  - In the absence of an authorized plan assigned card issuer ID for an entity that does not qualify for an HPID or an entity unwilling to obtain an OEID, NCPDP has been assigned card issuer identifier 9151014609 for use on pharmacy only identification cards.

NOTE: At the time of this writing, the healthcare industry is awaiting further guidance from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) regarding the HPID and OEID. Multiple healthcare associations and organizations have promoted the use of a common Payer ID as the card issuer ID, but there has not been any official regulatory guidance from HHS on the use of the Payer ID at this time. Until there is further guidance from HHS, this guide maintains the required use of an HPID, OEID, or pharmacy industry default ID of 9151014609 as valid card issuer IDs.


5. **Cardholder Name.** The sequence of the name is: first name, middle initial, last name, and name suffix (e.g., Jr or Sr). The name should not contain punctuation such as periods or commas.

#### **B. Back of Pharmacy-only ID Card Requirements:**

1. **Name and address of the benefit administrator.** This should be located on the back where non-electronic prescription claims, patient or provider correspondence can be sent. Its placement must be one of the lower-most elements on the back of the card. Additional addresses for member submitted claims or information is situational.
2. **Telephone number.** The number that providers or patients/participants may call for assistance should be clearly labeled, such as, "Patient Customer Service" or "Pharmacist Use Only." Its placement must be near the pharmacy claim submission name and address as one of the lower-most data elements.

Sample Pharmacy-only ID Card:

FRONT OF CARD

	Plan Name or Other Identifying Information
RxIIN	99999999
RxPCN	ABC1234567
RxGrp	ABC123456789
Issuer (80840)	9151014609
ID	123456789
Name	JOHN Q PUBLIC
	Issued 10/30/09

BACK OF CARD

<p><b>Pharmacy Help Desk: (800) 555-1234</b></p> <p>Submit Claims to: Any Pharmacy Benefits Manager 123 ABC Street Anytown, MO 00000-0000</p>
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Notes:

- **Card Issued Date** is recommended but not required. See the NCPDP *Health Care Identification Card Pharmacy and/or Combination ID Card Implementation Guide* for further information.
- **Card Issuer Identifier** is the NCPDP assigned default card issuer identifier, **9151014609**, assigned to NCPDP to be used on pharmacy-only ID cards. Card issuers who have obtained their own ten-digit Health Plan ID (HPID) or Other Entity Identifier (OEID), may use their assigned HPID or OEID.
- **Key Tag ID Cards** are allowed. See the NCPDP *Health Care Identification Card Pharmacy and/or Combination ID Card Implementation Guide* for further information.

III. Other Types of Pharmacy ID Cards



The NCPDP Guide also contains information and examples for the following types of ID cards:

- Family ID Cards
- ID Card Containing Two Pharmacy Benefits
- Discount Cards

IV. Machine Readable Technology

The NCPDP Guide recommends the PDF417 machine readable technology for pharmacy benefit information. The PDF417 image may be on the front or back of the card. Please see The NCPDP Guide for additional details.

Sample Pharmacy-only ID Card with PDF417 Image:

	Plan Name or Other Identifying Information
RxIIN	99999999
RxPCN	ABC1234567
RxGrp	ABC123456789
Issuer (80840)	9151014609
ID	123456789 SFX 01
Name	JOHN Q PUBLIC
	

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## V. Excluded Data Elements

**Pharmacy Copayment Amounts** are not on the card for the following reasons:

- Real time on-line processing systems do not require copayments to be submitted with the prescription claim.
- This information changes frequently and would require new cards to be printed AND carried by consumers.
- Many managed care plans include multiple levels of copayment amounts that would not fit on a card.

**Date(s) of Birth** is NOT on the card for the following reasons:

- The primary reason for excluding the date(s) of birth from the list of mandatory and situational data elements is that there is not enough room if a card issuer elects to print dependents on the ID card.
- Additionally, printing a cardholder's date of birth on the card would present security issues related to identify theft. Many payers check the submitted date of birth on prescription claims but purposely do not print it on the ID cards to help guard against fraudulent use.

**Benefit Effective Date and Expiration Date** are NOT on the card for the following reasons:

- An individual may have coverage terminated for any number of reasons prior to the date printed, leading to confusion at the time of service.
- The requirement of the expiration date would require massive reprinting of ID cards. Many plans offer eligibility on a monthly or yearly basis. Effective and expiration dates would require that ID cards be reprinted upon each renewal. The additional card printing costs would be passed along to the cardholders, probably through higher premiums.
- NCPDP recommends the use of the card issued date. This date benefits both the member and provider in identifying the most current benefit ID card.

## VI. Implementation of Combination ID Cards

To reduce the number of printed ID cards, a number of card issuers print health benefit cards containing information for both medical and pharmacy benefits. Information and identifiers related to other health benefit plans such as dental, vision, workers compensation, etc. may be included on the ID card, but must comply with the requirements. Further, nothing prohibits a card issuer from producing combination ID cards that include financial identification for plans such as debit cards for health savings accounts, flexible spending accounts, etc.

Prior releases of The NCPDP Guide included detailed requirements and guidelines for printing combined medical and pharmacy ID cards. However, effective with version 4 release 0 of the NCPDP *Pharmacy and/or Combination ID Card Implementation Guide*, the guide refers readers to the current release of the WEDI *Health Care Identification Card Implementation Guide*. NCPDP and WEDI have collaborated on the requirements and guidelines for combined benefit ID cards and both organizations will continue to work together. Those who are interested in combination medical and pharmacy ID cards should refer to the WEDI implementation guide which is available via [www.wedi.org](http://www.wedi.org).

The information provided in the **NCPDP Health Care Identification Card Fact Sheet** is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of the **NCPDP Health Care Identification Card Pharmacy and/or Combination ID Card Implementation Guide Version 5.0**.