

CONTACT:

Janet Cabibbo
Amendola Communications for NCPDP
480-664-8412 ext. 15
jcabibbo@ACmarketingPR.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**NCPDP RELEASES TWO NEW INDUSTRY STANDARDS**

SCOTTSDALE, AZ – October 25, 2011 – [The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs](#) (NCPDP), the leading not-for-profit pharmacy standards development organization, announced today the release of two new industry standards: the Uniform Healthcare Payer Data Standard and the Retiree Drug Subsidy Standard.

The Uniform Healthcare Payer Data Standard streamlines administrative efficiencies, supporting the reporting requirements for claims data submission to states or their designees. It also established an industry standard to be used for all entities sharing historical healthcare data.

The Retiree Drug Subsidy Standard was developed to assist in the automation of summarized drug cost and related data transfer from one processor/pharmacy benefit manager to another processor/pharmacy benefit manager. It allows for the continuation of CMS Retiree Drug Subsidy (RDS) cost data reporting by the receiving entity for a given application ID plan year.

Proposals for the standards were brought to NCPDP for review, discovery, planning and implementation using its proven, collaborative and consensus-based model. The [APCD Council](#) (All-Payer Claims Database Council) initiated the proposal that led to the Uniform Healthcare Payer Data Standard. APCD representative Amy Costello, who is also Project Director at the NH Institute for Health Policy and Practice, said, "The APCD Council is pleased to see the release of the Uniform Reporting Guide that establishes a standard for submission of pharmacy claims data for state reporting. This standardization effort was very important for enabling states to more easily share data and analytic tools, while reducing administrative costs of submission of the data."

Costello continued, "We look forward to continuing our work with NCPDP to maintain the guides in an effort to be responsive to data and information needs in the face of state and national health reform efforts."

For information on how to access the Standards or information on NCPDP member benefits, including participation in NCPDP Work Group and Task Group activities, visit http://www.ncdp.org/member_benefits.aspx.

About NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization with over 1,600 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 e-Prescribing, the Manufacturers Rebate Standard and more to improve communication within the pharmacy industry. Our data services include the NCPDP Provider Identification Number, a unique identifier of over 75,000 pharmacies, and HCldea, "The Prescriber Identity Solution." NCPDP's RxRecon™ 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 www.ncdp.org or call (480) 477-1000.

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