



## Federal Requirement:

Outpatient drug prescriptions for Medical Assistance (MA) recipients are required to be written on tamper-resistant prescription pads.

Section 7002(b) of the Iraq War Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-28,) requires that prescriptions for covered outpatient drugs be written on tamper-resistant prescription pads in order to be eligible for MA Payment. The requirement applies only to written prescriptions for outpatient drugs, including over-the-counter drugs, presented for payment in the fee-for-service delivery system; it does not apply to written prescriptions presented for payment in the managed care delivery system. Beginning April 1, 2008, the Federal Medicaid Program requires that all prescriptions pads/papers for prescriptions written for Medicaid fee-for-service recipients have **one** of the following characteristics:

- 1) one or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form;
- 2) one or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the provider;
- 3) one or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms.

By October 1, 2008, prescription pads/paper will be required to be written on tamper-resistant prescriptions pads that have **all three** of the Federally prescribed characteristics described above.

Pennsylvania's Medical Assistance Program encourages providers to implement all security features by April 1, 2008, if possible, in order to avoid wasting old pads/paper and reordering and using new pads/paper with the additional features prior to October 1, 2008. Providers who write prescriptions for Medicaid recipients should contact their printers to secure an appropriate supply of tamper-resistant prescription pads or paper that meet the Federal Medicaid requirements identified above and begin using these prescription pads or paper prior to or on April 1, 2008. Orders may take up to 4 weeks to process.

If you or your printer/vendor require additional information, please refer to MA Bulletin 99-08-03, which may be accessed using the following website link:

<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/PubsFormsReports/NewslettersBulletins/003673169.aspx>

This Medical Assistance Bulletin provides examples of characteristics for tamper-resistant prescription pads/papers and a summary of the Federal law and Medicaid requirements as well as an attachment with a listing of tamper-resistant prescription pad/paper vendors.