

MOA MEMBERS
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MEDICAID TAMPER RESISTANT PAD REQUIREMENTS

Please see the below CMS announcement regarding the Medicaid tamper resistant pad requirement for outpatient drugs/pharmaceuticals. The AOA News has published several articles on this and will include a reminder to members in the next issue as well.

As you recall, CMS initially announced it would require Medicaid non-electronic prescriptions to meet at least some standards for tamper resistance by October 1, 2007. However, thanks to the advocacy efforts by AOA and state optometry organizations, this deadline was pushed back six months with legislation enacted late last year. Improved AOA alter-Proof tamperproof prescription forms, now available through the AOA Order Department, are specifically designed to meet the tamper resistance requirements. The prescription pads can be ordered through the AOA Order Department by calling (800) 262-2210.

Beginning April 1, 2008, all written prescriptions for Medicaid recipients must be on paper with at least one tamper-resistant feature as outlined by CMS and defined by your State. Beginning October 1, 2008, these same prescriptions must be on paper that meets all three baseline characteristics of tamper-resistant pads. CMS has outlined the three baseline characteristics as those that: (1) prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form; (2) prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber; or (3) prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms.

States are responsible for defining specific features that meet the baseline characteristics in order for a prescription to be considered tamper-resistant in that State. Therefore, we recommend reviewing your State's website for guidance on acceptable tamper-resistant features. Additional information on CMS' requirements can be found at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DeficitReductionAct/30_GovtInfo.asp

Please note that electronic prescriptions, faxed prescriptions and prescriptions sent over the telephone are exempt from this requirement.

Failure to comply with this requirement could result in a withholding of Medicaid reimbursement.