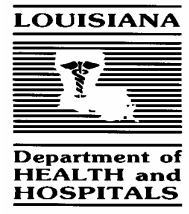




Bobby Jindal
GOVERNOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS



Alan Levine
SECRETARY

February 29, 2008

Tamper-resistant Prescription Pads

Effective April 1, 2008, in order to comply with the "TMA, Abstinence Education, and QI Program Extension Act of 2007" (H.R. 3668) and the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health Care, Katrina Recovery and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007" (H.R. 2206), Louisiana Medicaid will require written, non-electronic prescriptions for recipients to be on tamper-resistant prescription drug pads.

For **dates of service on or after April 1, 2008**, Medicaid will allow a prescription pad to be compliant, if **one** of the following three characteristics is met:

- **One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form**
- **One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber, or**
- **One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms**

No later than **October 1, 2008**, to be considered tamper-resistant, a prescription pad must contain **all three** characteristics listed above. Exceeding these guidelines is permissible.

This provision **applies** to all **written (non-electronic) prescriptions**:

- For outpatient drugs including over-the-counter drugs reimbursed by the Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Program;
- Regardless of whether Medicaid is the primary or secondary payer

The tamper-resistant requirement **does not apply** to prescriptions which are:

- Communicated by the prescriber to the pharmacy electronically, verbally or by facsimile;
- Refills of written prescriptions presented at the pharmacy prior to April 1, 2008.

Emergency fills with non-compliant written prescriptions are permissible as long as the prescriber provides a verbal, faxed, electronic or compliant written prescription within 72 hours after the date on which the prescription was filled. If an emergency fill is confirmed with a verbal order, the pharmacist must document the call on the face of the written prescription.

In February, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) clarified that **features added to the prescription after they are printed do not meet the requirement of the statute**. Features that would make the prescription tamper-resistant include certain types of paper as well as certain items that can be pre-printed on the paper. Additionally, CMS clarified that beginning October 1, 2008, **computer generated prescriptions must be printed on paper that meets the first baseline requirement** that prescriptions contain one or more industry-recognized features designed prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form (see first table).

The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) formed a focus group to identify best practices and made recommendations regarding tamper-resistant prescriptions. The group provided the following tables which summarize features that are considered compliant with the statute. Features in **bold** are typically less costly and are easier to implement. Those features in *italics* are difficult for pharmacies to verify.

Category 1 – One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form.

Feature	Description
“Void” or “Illegal” pantograph	The word “Void” appears when the prescription is photocopied. Due to the word “Void” on faxed prescriptions, this feature requires the pharmacy to document if the prescription was faxed.
Reverse “Rx” or white area on prescription	“Rx” symbol or white area disappears when photocopied at light setting. This feature is normally paired with the “Void” pantograph to prohibit copying on a light setting.
Coin-reactive ink	Ink that changes color when rubbed by a coin.
Security back print	Printed on the back of prescription form. The most popular wording for the security back print is “Security Prescription” or the security back print can include the states name.
Watermarking (forderiner)	Special paper containing “watermarking”.
Diagonal lines (patented “Void”)	Diagonal lines with the word “void” or “copy”.
Microprinting	Very small font writing, perhaps acting as a signature line.

Category 2 – One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the erasure of modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber.

Feature	Description
Uniform non-white background color	Background that consists of a solid color or consistent pattern that has been printed onto the paper. This will inhibit a forger from physically erasing written or printed information on a prescription form. If someone tries to erase or copy, the consistent background color will look altered and show the color of the underlying paper.
Quantity check off boxes	In addition to the written quantity on the prescription, quantities are indicated in ranges. It is recommended that ranges be 25’s with the highest being “151 and over”. The range box corresponding to the quantity prescribed MUST be checked for the prescription to be valid.
Refill indicator (circle or check number of refill or “NR”)	Indicates the number of refills on the prescription. Refill number must be used to be a valid prescription.
Pre-print “Rx is void if more than __ Rxs on paper” on prescription paper	Reduces the ability to add medications to the prescription. Line must be completed for this feature to be valid. Reduces the ability to add medications to the prescription. Computer printer paper can accommodate this feature by printing “This space intentionally left blank” in an empty space or quadrant.
Quantity Border and Fill (for computer generated prescriptions on paper only)	Quantities are surrounded by special characters such as an asterisk to prevent alteration, e.g. QTY **50** Value may also be expressed as text, e.g. (FIFTY), (optional)
Refill Border and Fill (for computer generated prescriptions on paper only)	Refill quantities are surrounded by special characters such as an asterisk to prevent alteration, e.g. QTY **5** Value may also be expressed as text, e.g. (FIVE).
Chemically reactive paper	If exposed to chemical solvents, oxidants, acids or alkalis to alter, the prescription paper will react and leave a mark visible to the pharmacist.
Paper toner fuser	Special printer toner that establishes strong bond to prescription paper and is difficult to tamper.
Safety or security paper with colored pattern	White (or some other color) mark appears when erased.

Category 3 – One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms.

Feature	Description
Security features and descriptions listed on prescriptions	Complete list of the security features on the prescription paper for compliance purposes. This is strongly recommended to aid pharmacists in identification of features implemented on prescription.
Form batch numbers	Each batch of prescriptions has a unique identifier. This feature is only effective in states with an approved vendor listing.
Serial number	Number issued by printer of prescription, may or may not be sequential. To be valid, this should be reported to the state. New York after several years now is tracking numbers electronically.
Encoding techniques (bar codes)	Bar codes on prescription. Serial number or batch number is encoded in a bar code.
Logos	Sometimes used as part of the background color or pantograph.
Metal stripe security	Metal stripe on paper, difficult to counterfeit.
Heat sensing imprint	By touching the imprint or design, the imprint will disappear.
<i>Invisible fluorescent fibers/ink</i>	<i>Visible only under black light.</i>
<i>Thermo chromic ink</i>	<i>Ink changes color with temperature change. This is expensive paper and problematic for storage in areas not climate controlled.</i>
<i>Holograms that interfere with photocopying</i>	<i>May interfere with photocopying or scanning.</i>

Louisiana Medicaid recommends that a listing of the security features of the prescription (first example in Category 3) be printed. This will assist the pharmacist in identifying that the prescription is tamper-resistant.

The Medicaid Pharmacy Section has received numerous inquiries regarding this new requirement. Prescribers have contacted local printers who are able to meet the tamper-resistant prescription pad criteria. Additionally, prescribers may consult the National Association of State Medicaid Directors (NASMD) website at www.nasmd.org for vendors of compliant prescription pads.

It is the responsibility of the prescriber to obtain and purchase tamper-resistant prescription pads.

Information regarding tamper-resistant prescriptions is posted at www.lamedicaid.com.

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Program 1-800-437-9101 or 225-342-9768.

Your adherence to this policy is greatly appreciated.