



Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

Maryland Pharmacy Program
Transmittal No. 186
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To: Physicians, Pharmacies, Hospitals, Clinics, Nursing Homes, Intermediate Care Facilities for People with Mental Retardation, Residential Treatment Centers for Children under 21, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Midwives, Dentists, Podiatrists, Managed Care Organizations

From: Charles E. Lehman, Executive Director *CEL/2008*
Office of Systems Operations and Pharmacy

Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director *Susan J. Tucker*
Office of Health Services

Re: National Provider Identifier (NPI) Information for Prescribers of the Maryland Medicaid Program, the Kidney Disease Program, the Maryland AIDS Drug Assistance Program, and the Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment Program

Effective May 23, 2008:

- The pharmacy point-of-sale (POS) claims processor for the above programs will **mandate** the prescriber's NPI number in order to process and adjudicate a claim.
- Specific information on how to submit the prescriber NPI on a claim is available online at <http://www.mdrxprograms.com/>.
- Pharmacy claims submitted without the prescriber's NPI number will be denied. The NPI field previously contained the physician's DEA number. Therefore, pharmacy claims submitted with the physician's DEA number will be denied.
- The pharmacy POS claims processor will validate the prescriber NPI for all pharmacy claims. Pharmacy claims for controlled substances (Schedule II – V) will be subject to additional verification to determine that the prescriber's NPI number corresponds to a valid DEA number.
- For prescribers that have yet to obtain an NPI number from CMS, information about this process and a registry of assigned NPI numbers is available online at <https://www.nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>.
- Pharmacies can obtain a copy of the revised Payer Specification Sheet for each of the above programs online at <http://www.mdrxprograms.com/>.

Managed Care Organizations should notify their prescribers directly regarding these requirements.