



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF MEDICAID BUSINESS AND POLICY

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Nicholas A. Toumpas
Commissioner

Kathleen A. Dunn
Director

July 29, 2008

Dear Prescriber,

This letter contains important information regarding compliance with federally mandated Medicaid Tamper Resistant Requirements. As of October 1, 2008, all fee-for-service Medicaid prescriptions that are either handwritten or printed by a computer must contain at least one feature from each of the three categories of tamper resistance:

1. **Copy Resistance:** to prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription,
2. **Erasure / Modification Resistance:** to prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber, and
3. **Counterfeit Resistance:** to prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms.

Attached to this letter are examples of best practices being used across the country to meet these requirements. All of these practices are acceptable to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and to the State of New Hampshire, provided one from each category is present on every handwritten or computer printed prescription. Note that no feature may be used twice.

In order to ensure that patients do not see any adverse impact regarding their access to medications, it is critical to meet **all three** CMS requirements, prior to October 1, 2008. In an emergency situation, prescriptions written on non-tamper resistant pads will be permitted 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.

We appreciate your compliance to date with the earlier regulations requiring one tamper resistant feature in April and thank you in advance for your efforts to comply with all three requirements by October 1, 2008.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Dunn, MPH
Director

Summary Of Features In Compliance With The CMS Guidelines And Acceptable To The State Of New Hampshire Medicaid Program.

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

Feature	Description
<p>“Void,” “Illegal,” or “Copy” pantograph <u>with or without</u> Reverse “Rx”</p>	<p>The word “Void,” “Illegal,” or “Copy” appears when the prescription is photocopied. The pantograph should be configured so as not to obscure the security feature description contained on the prescription, the patient and prescriber demographics, or the medication and directions.</p> <p>Some pantographs can be problematic because when the prescription is copied, the resulting “void” or other wording that appears makes the underlying prescription difficult to read. This type of pantograph should be avoided. We suggest that you ask your pad vendor about hollow “VOID” pantograph lettering which is less likely to obscure the prescription information.</p> <p>The Reverse Rx disappears when copied at a light setting – thus making the pantograph more effective in copy resistance. The pantograph may be used with a reverse Rx, but reverse Rx is not effective as a feature by itself.</p>
<p>Micro printing – To be effective, this feature must be printed in 0.5 font or less making it illegible to the pharmacist when copied</p>	<p>Very small font which is legible (readable) when viewed at 5x magnification or greater, and illegible when copied.</p>
<p>Thermochromic ink</p>	<p>Ink changes color with temperature change.</p>
<p>Coin-reactive ink</p>	<p>Ink changes color when rubbed by a coin.</p>
<p><u>Watermarking</u> Security back print (artificial watermark)</p> <p>Digital watermarks</p> <p>Watermarking on special paper</p>	<p>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. Can only be seen when viewed at an angle.</p> <p>Weak digital watermarks cannot be read if copied and strong digital watermarks provide digital rights management/“proof” of origin when copied.</p> <p>Special paper contains a watermark that can be seen when backlit.</p>

Category 2 – Erasure / Modification Resistance: One or more industry-recognized features designed to

prevent the erasure or modification of information written / printed on the prescription by the prescriber.	
Features to Prevent Erasure	Description
An erasure revealing background (erasure resistance)	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, the consistent background color will look altered and show the color of the underlying paper.
Toner Receptor Coating / Toner Lock or Color Lock paper (erasure resistance for computer generated prescriptions <u>printed with a laser printer</u>) OR Chemically reactive paper (erasure resistance for hand written prescriptions)	Special printer paper that establishes a strong bond between laser-printed text and paper, making erasure obvious. Note – this is NOT necessary for inkjet printers – as the ink from inkjet printers is absorbed into normal “bond” paper. If exposed to chemical solvents, oxidants, acids, or alkalis that can be used to alter the prescription, the chemically reactive paper will react and leave a mark visible to the pharmacist.
Features to Prevent Modification	Description
Quantity check off boxes and refill indicator (circle or check number of refills or “NR)	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. The refill indicator indicates the number of refills on the prescription. Refill numbers must be used to be a valid prescription.
Pre-printed language on prescription paper Example: “Rx is void if more than XXX Rx’s on paper”	Reduces ability to add medications to the prescription. Line must be completed for this feature to be valid. Computer printer paper can accommodate this feature by printing, “This space intentionally left blank” in an empty space or quadrant.
Quantity and Refill Border and Fill (this is the recommended for computer generated prescriptions)	Quantities and refill # are surrounded by special characters such as an asterisks to prevent modification, e.g. QTY **50** Value may also be expressed as text, e.g. (FIFTY), (optional).

Please note that while ONLY one feature from this Category 2 is required, it is strongly recommended that one feature of erasure resistance and one feature of modification resistance be used. Inkjet printed prescriptions are de-facto erasure resistant based on the characteristics of inkjet ink.

Category 3 – Counterfeit Resistance: One or more industry-recognized feature designed to prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms.
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Feature	Description
Security features and descriptions listed on prescriptions – this feature is <u>strongly</u> recommended on all 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.
Thermochromic ink	Ink changes color with temperature change.
Encoding techniques (bar codes)	Bar codes on prescription. Serial number or Batch number is encoded in a bar code.
Security Thread	Metal or plastic security threads embedded in paper as used in currency.