



The End Stage
Renal Disease
Network Of Texas

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MEMO

To: Medical Directors, Nephrologists, and Clinical Managers
From: Angie Wieler, MSN, RN, CNN
Quality Improvement Coordinator
Date: March 25, 2008

Subject: **“Tamper Resistant” Prescription Requirement**

Effective April 1, 2008, Medicaid recipients must have all written prescriptions on special “tamper-resistant” paper. The following are the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) baseline characteristics necessary to ensure “tamper-resistance”:

- Prevention of unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form.
- Prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber.
- Prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms.

CMS mandates that as of April 1, 2008 the written prescriptions must meet at least *one* of the above criteria, however by October 1, 2008 every prescription must meet all *three* criteria. Failure to comply with this directive could result in a withholding of Medicaid reimbursement. For more information go to:

http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/stakeholder/jan_feb08/art_7.html

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has prepared a 9-page document which discusses the criteria, provides frequently asked questions and answers, as well as reviews the impact to Schedule II controlled substances. To access this document you can type in the following address:

http://www.texmed.org/uploadedFiles/Governmental_Affairs/TMA_Advocacy_in_Agencies/Medicaid/Tamper_Resistant_Rx_Provider_Notice_FAQ.pdf.

The Texas Medical Association (TMA - www.texmed.org) states that Texas HHSC is making the implementation of all *three* criteria a requirement as of April 1, 2008. Please be sure that all the prescription pads within the facility do meet these crucial criteria to prevent any reimbursement issues. To find prescription pads designed specifically for Texas go to: <http://www.texmed.org/Template.aspx?id=6536> , towards the end of the document are links to various vendors and resources.

This requirement is for all prescriptions that the patients’ *physically* handle, all other prescriptions such as those faxed to pharmacies, e-prescribing, telephone call-ins, or long-term care facilities and hospitals will not be required to implement these new standards.