

August 20, 2003
Montana Medicaid Notice
Pharmacy Providers

Important Information for Pharmacies on Submitting Claims to DPHHS after October 16, 2003

Almost all pharmacies serving DPHHS clients currently submit claims using point-of-sale technology based on the NCPDP 3.2 pharmacy claim format. Under HIPAA, the only approved format is NCPDP 5.1.

DPHHS and its claims processing contractor, ACS State Healthcare, will start accepting NCPDP 5.1 on Wednesday, Oct. 1. DPHHS and ACS will continue to **also** accept NCPDP 3.2 until Thursday, Oct. 16.

Since the pharmacy industry is generally well prepared for the transition to NCPDP 5.1, the Department has determined that it will not be necessary to invoke a contingency plan of continuing to accept NCPDP 3.2 after Oct. 16. ACS has been working with pharmacy switch vendors to ensure a smooth transition to the new standard.

Like other providers serving DPHHS clients, pharmacies will have the option of picking up their electronic remittance advices either in the HIPAA-compliant X12N 835 format or, for a limited time, in the current non-compliant format. Pharmacies need not notify ACS or DPHHS which format they will pick up from electronic bulletin boards, though pharmacies that want to have the option of picking up X12N 835 remittance advices will need to enroll with the ACS clearinghouse.

For further details, see the HIPAA fact sheet or call the ACS point-of-sale help desk at 800-365-4944.

Contact Information

For more information, visit the Provider Information website:

For claims questions or additional information, contact Provider Relations:

Provider Relations in Helena and out-of-state: (406) 442-1837

In-state toll-free: 1-800-624-3958