



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

Office of Systems, Operations & Pharmacy  
Medical Care Programs

Charles E. Lehman  
Executive Director

**Maryland Pharmacy Program  
Transmittal No. 188  
December 16, 2008**

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  
Office of Systems Operations and Pharmacy

Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director  
Office of Health Services

RE: Prescriber National Provider Identifier (NPI) **Mandated** on Pharmacy Claims for Prescribers that participate in the Maryland Medicaid Program, the Kidney Disease Program, the Maryland AIDS Drug Assistance Program, and the Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment Program

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**Effective March 1, 2009**

- Pharmacy claims for recipients that participate in the above programs, which are submitted without the **prescriber's** NPI, will be rejected.
- All prescribers must provide their NPI with each prescription.
- Prescribers who have yet to obtain an NPI can easily obtain one. Information on how to get an NPI can be found online at: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>. A registry of assigned NPI numbers is also available at this website.
- When submitting claims electronically, pharmacists must enter the prescriber's NPI in field 411-DB (Prescriber ID) and 466-EZ (Prescriber ID Qualifier) in accordance with the Payer Specification Sheet found at <http://mdrxprograms.com/>.
- Pharmacies are expected to use diligence in obtaining a prescriber's NPI for all prescriptions billed to Maryland Pharmacy Programs. If a pharmacy has exhausted all efforts to obtain a prescriber's NPI, including searching the National Plan & Provider Enumeration System (<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/NPIRegistryHome.do>), only then may the pharmacy contact the Claims Processing Point of Sale (POS) Call Center at 800-932-2918 to obtain Prior Authorization.
- The pharmacy POS claims processor will validate the prescriber NPI for all pharmacy claims.

