



May 5, 2006

Dear Pharmacy Chain:

On May 1, 2006, NCPDP registered with NPPES as an EFIO and submitted our Certification Statement certifying we will comply with the requirements of EFIOs. We are awaiting instructions from the Enumerator or CMS as to when we may begin submitting files to NPPES. Additional information on what NCPDP must do as part of our EFI activities and on the EFI process in general is available at www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvdentStand/07_efi.asp#TopOfPage. CMS plans to be ready for live files by "late spring".

We have begun to receive Excel Templates from some chains with updated data on each pharmacy. Now is the time for you to **update your data** with NCPDP in preparation for bulk enumeration. CMS requires certification that data is no older than 12-months, so NCPDP is requiring an Excel spreadsheet from each chain or a paper update form if only a few stores are involved and you would prefer paper forms. The paper update form and a Zip file of the Excel spreadsheet **and important instructions for use** are available for download at www.ncdpd.org/frame_news_npi-info.htm Please follow the instructions accompanying the spreadsheet closely as some characters cannot be on the spreadsheet or it will not import properly. If you wish to send a sample file to insure you are using the Excel file properly, please email it to Jeannine Deese jdeese@ncdpd.org and indicate it is a sample file.

NCPDP realizes that all your data on a pharmacy may not be in one place and creating the Excel file is time consuming. However, this is intended to be a one-time process. In the future, you can use the spreadsheet to indicate changes only and maintenance should not be any more difficult than in past years. However, according to policy, all changes must be documented.

I have also attached an "Authorization Letter" all chains must sign authorizing NCPDP to be your EFIO on behalf of your pharmacies. It is very important that you list the "NCPDP Chain Codes" and associated EINs for which you are authorizing enumeration because NCPDP sets the "authorization received flag" on each pharmacy record according to the chain codes and CMS requires authorization by EIN. **NCPDP will not be able to enumerate your pharmacies without this signed authorization.** Once we receive your authorization, we will provide you with step-by-step instructions on the enumeration process itself and what you can expect.

We have recently learned that Medicare is requiring NPIs for those providers required to fill out to new Medicare CMS-855 registration form for Part B. It is not likely this will impact the bulk enumeration of existing stores, but may impact new stores or change of ownership. We will contact you as soon as we have more information on this recent development.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Authorization Letter or the enumeration process, please email Kristal Deininger, kdeininger@ncdpd.org or call her at 480-477-1000, ext. 112. We look forward to beginning enumeration and receiving your data in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine C. Graeff". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Catherine C. Graeff, R.Ph., MBA
Sr. Vice President, Communications and Industry Relations

Attachment: Authorization Letter