

Effective October 1, 2007, in order for Medicaid outpatient drugs to be reimbursable by the federal government, all written, non-electronic prescriptions must be written on tamper-resistant prescription pads. This mandate has been delayed by 6 months with an effective date of March 31, 2008.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has outlined three baseline characteristics of tamper-resistant prescription pads.. However, each State will define which features it will require to meet those characteristics.

To be considered tamper-resistant, a prescription pad must contain at least one of the following three characteristics:

- 1) one or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form;
- 2) one or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber;
- 3) one or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms.

States are free to exceed the above baseline standard as to what constitutes a tamper-resistant prescription pad.

**The State of California currently uses tamper-resistant prescription pads for controlled substances which exceed the federal Medicaid requirement. California's current approved controlled substance prescription pads MUST be utilized for ALL controlled substance prescriptions regardless if they are Medicaid or not.**