

Important Information for TennCare Prescribers

Effective October 1, 2007 prescriptions for TennCare patients cannot be filled at the pharmacy unless written on a tamper resistant prescription pad or unless the prescription is subject to one of the limited exceptions

Why? – This is the result of a recent federal law/mandate intended to reduce fraud and abuse that was embedded in a law passed by Congress primarily dealing with funding for the Iraq War

Exceptions – The following will **not** be subject to the tamper resistant requirement:

- Refills of written prescriptions presented at a pharmacy before October 1, 2007
- Prescriptions sent to the pharmacy electronically (either by e-prescribe or by fax)
- Prescriptions communicated to the pharmacy by telephone
- Drugs administered in nursing facilities, ICFMRs, and other institutional and clinical settings

What you need to do – If you are not already using tamper resistant prescriptions, contact your supplier of prescription pads and order a supply of tamper resistant pads prior to October 1, 2007

What is a tamper resistant prescription pad? – According to the federal government, to be considered tamper resistant on October 1, 2007 a prescription pad must have **at least one** of the following three characteristics:

- Industry-recognized feature(s) designed to prevent unauthorized copying
- Industry-recognized feature(s) designed to prevent erasure or modification of information written by the prescriber
- Industry-recognized feature(s) designed to prevent use of counterfeit prescription forms

What happens on or after October 1, 2007 if a TennCare patient presents to a pharmacy with a written prescription that is not tamper resistant? – If the pharmacist determines that an emergency exists, he/she may provide a 72 hour supply of the drug but he/she will have to follow-up with the prescriber to get a verbal, electronic or compliant written prescription within 72 hours after the time the prescription was filled. In a non-emergency situation the drug will not be provided unless the pharmacist is able to reach the prescriber and obtain a verbal, electronic or compliant written prescription.

Important considerations:

- Beginning next year, on October 1, 2008, to be considered tamper resistant, the federal government will require that a prescription pad contain **all three** of the tamper resistant characteristics noted above.
- Access to electronic prescribing is available to all TennCare providers through Shared Health. You may contact Shared Health at **1-888-283-6691** to find out how to get connected.
- Even if you plan to transmit your prescriptions electronically (via e-prescribe or fax), you will need a supply of tamper resistant prescriptions if you prescribe schedule II controlled substances, since these prescriptions may not be transmitted electronically.