

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 2014

C 328 L 09
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Requiring tamper-resistant prescription pads.

Sponsors: Representatives Kelley, Ericksen, Green and Morrell.

House Committee on Health Care & Wellness
Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care

Background:

Medicaid Tamper-Resistant Prescription Law.

Starting on October 1, 2008, in order for Medicaid outpatient drugs to be reimbursable by the federal government, all written, non-electronic prescriptions were required to contain at least three tamper-resistant features, one from each of the following three industry-recognized baseline characteristics outlined in guidance issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS):

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

Although CMS has provided these baseline characteristics of tamper-resistant prescriptions, each state has the authority to define which features it will require to meet these characteristics in order to be considered tamper-resistant.

Electronic-Prescription Exceptions.

An e-prescription is a computer-generated prescription created by a patient's health care provider and sent directly to a pharmacy. The CMS encourages the use of e-prescriptions as an effective and efficient method of communicating prescriptions to pharmacists. Consequently, the described Medicaid requirements do not apply to e-prescriptions transmitted to a pharmacy, prescriptions faxed to a pharmacy, or prescriptions communicated to the pharmacy by telephone by a prescriber.

Summary:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Prescription Pad Requirements.

Effective July 1, 2010, every prescription written by a licensed practitioner must be written on a tamper-resistant prescription pad or paper approved by the Board of Pharmacy (Board). Pharmacists may not fill a written prescription from a licensed practitioner unless it is written on an approved tamper-resistant prescription pad or paper. A pharmacist may nonetheless provide emergency supplies in accordance with the Board and other insurance contract requirements.

A tamper-resistant pad or paper must be approved by the Board for use and must contain the following industry-recognized characteristics:

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

Exemptions.

The requirements for tamper-resistant pads or paper do not apply to:

- prescriptions that are transmitted to the pharmacy by telephone, facsimile, or electronic means; or
- where the authorized health care practitioner follows defined procedures, prescriptions written for specified individuals, including:
 - inpatients and outpatients of a hospital;
 - residents of a nursing home;
 - inpatients or residents of a mental health facility; and
 - incarcerated individuals.

If a hard copy of an electronic prescription is given directly to the patient, however, the manually signed hard copy prescription must be on approved tamper-resistant paper.

Seal of Approval.

The Board must create a seal of approval that confirms that a pad or paper contains all three required industry-recognized characteristics. The seal must be affixed to all prescription pads or paper and all vendors must have their tamper-resistant prescription pads or paper approved by the Board prior to the marketing or sale of pads or paper.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	95	0	
Senate	46	0	(Senate amended)
House	95	0	(House concurred)

Effective: July 26, 2009