



March 17, 2017

Thomas E. Price, M.D.
HHS Secretary
HHS Office of the Secretary
Secretary@HHS.gov

Dear Dr. Price:

On behalf of its members and staff, The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) congratulates you on your recent appointment to the position of HHS Secretary.

NCPDP is a not-for-profit American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-accredited Standards Development Organization (SDO) consisting of nearly 1600 members who represent drug manufacturers, chain and independent pharmacies, drug wholesalers, insurers, mail order prescription drug companies, claims processors, pharmacy benefit managers, physician services organizations, prescription drug providers, software vendors, telecommunication vendors, industry professional societies, service organizations, government agencies, and other parties interested in electronic standardization within the pharmacy services sector of the healthcare industry.

For 40 years NCPDP has been committed to furthering the electronic exchange of information between healthcare stakeholders. The NCPDP Telecommunication Standard is the standard used for eligibility, claims processing, reporting, and other functions in the pharmacy services industry as named in HIPAA. The NCPDP SCRIPT Standard and the Formulary and Benefit Standard are the standards used in electronic prescribing as named in MMA. NCPDP standards are named in Meaningful Use as well.

We would also like to take this opportunity to share with you our letter in response to the FDA's January 2017 Guidance "Nonproprietary Naming of Biological Products." Our comments, sent via email to the Office of Management and Budget and submitted via regulations.gov, expressed grave concerns regarding the enormous financial consequences of the FDA's proposal for renaming all biological drugs.

NCPDP wishes you great success in your new role.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Ann C. Stember", written in a cursive style.

Lee Ann C. Stember
President
National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP)
9240 E. Raintree Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Enclosure