August 20, 2007

Tamper-Resistant Prescription Pads

On August 17, CMS issued additional guidance to State Medicaid Directors regarding the new federal law (that will require prescriptions for Medicaid (SoonerCare) members to be written on tamper-resistant prescription pads.

Please note:

• The requirement will take effect Oct. 1, 2007.

• **The requirement will not apply to prescriptions that are called in, faxed in, or to electronic prescriptions (e-prescriptions).**

• The requirement will not apply to prescriptions for drugs provided in nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded, or other designated institutional and clinical settings.

• Emergency fills of non-compliant written prescriptions for non-controlled or dangerous substances are permitted as long as the prescriber provides a verbal, faxed, electronic, or compliant written prescription within 72 hours.

• This topic will be discussed in the SoonerCare Pharmacy Teleconference on August 30.

To be considered tamper resistant on **October 1, 2007** 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; or

2) One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber; or

3) One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms.

Effective **October 1, 2008**, a prescription pad must contain all three characteristics to be considered tamper-resistant.

We appreciate the services you provide to Oklahomans insured by SoonerCare.