

# *PROVIDER QuickTip*

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**EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2008, IT IS FEDERALLY REQUIRED THAT OUTPATIENT DRUG PRESCRIPTIONS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (MA) RECIPIENTS BE WRITTEN ON TAMPER-RESISTANT PRESCRIPTION PADS.**

(This effective date is the result of a six month delay from the original implementation date of October 1, 2007.)

On September 29, 2007, the President signed House Resolution 3668, which included a provision to delay for six months the October 1, 2007 implementation date, on which providers were required to use tamper-resistant prescription pads when writing prescriptions for outpatient drugs for MA recipients.

The six month delay will allow providers and prescribers additional time to better understand the requirement, to develop compliant operational policies and procedures, and if necessary, to obtain compliant tamper-resistant prescription pads/paper.

Providers are reminded that this Federal requirement does not apply to verbal, facsimile or electronic outpatient prescriptions, including over-the-counter (OTC) drugs. Therefore, providers and prescribers should consider these alternative prescribing mechanisms as they develop their own compliance implementation plan for April 1, 2008.

Effective April 1, 2008, providers must use tamper-resistant prescriptions pads when writing prescriptions for outpatient drugs for MA recipients in the fee-for-service delivery system, including the ACCESS Plus Program. This Federal requirement applies only to written outpatient drug prescriptions, including those written for OTC drugs, for MA recipients.

Check the Department of Public Welfare's Web site often at [www.dpw.state.pa.us](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us)

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