



BCBST to Reimburse Pharmacies for Part B Drugs Filed On-line

BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee has asked the Tennessee Pharmacists Association to disseminate the following information. BCBST representatives have indicated it is their intention to begin this process very soon. TPA urges pharmacies to complete the contracting process as soon as possible in order to ensure their ability to participate.

From BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee:

To facilitate the processing for Part B drug claims, pharmacies are asked to contract with BCBST to be a Medicare Advantage Pharmacy Provider.

This will allow pharmacies to file Part B drug claims using the Web through BCBST's portal. There is no Credentialing requirement for Pharmacies, although licensure will be validated.

First Step: Call **1-800-924-7141**. You will connect to the Voice Response Unit (VRU). Take Option # 1 (for touch-tone); then Option # 1 (Provider). You will then be asked several questions about entering various numbers (Provider #, Tax ID #, NPI). **Do nothing**, but listen patiently (about 60 seconds) until the VRU asks about connecting you to "contracting" (Option # 2). This will take you to a staff person.

Tell the staff that you represent a **pharmacy** wanting to participate in the **Medicare Advantage Part B program**. Info will be obtained and the Provider Agreement and tutorial for on-line claims processing will be sent to you.

Second Step: Execute the agreement and mail to:

BlueCross BlueShield of TN
PO Box 180176
Chattanooga, TN 37401

Once your pharmacy agreement is executed by BCBST, you will be sent a copy.

Again, claims for Part B drugs must be submitted on-line via the Web using the BCBST portal; thus, you must have access to the web to file these claims to BCBST. See tutorial for this process that will be in your packet.

Reminder: ePrescribing Grant Dollars Available to Independent Pharmacies

The Tennessee Pharmacists Association (TPA), through the Tennessee Pharmacists Research and Education Foundation (TPREF), is working with the State to provide grant dollars for independent community pharmacies in Tennessee, to support the implementation of ePrescribing in these pharmacies. The grant dollars are available specifically to support the purchase or upgrade of pharmacy software required for ePrescribing. In order to obtain the grants and make them available to pharmacies, TPA needs independent community pharmacies to apply. **Your participation is urgently needed.**

In order to possibly make grant dollars available for your pharmacy, you should fill out and mail the **attached Grant Application** to the TPREF as soon as you receive an invoice for your new software or software upgrades. To be considered, the invoice must be dated on or after December 1, 2008. If your pharmacy does not apply, you cannot be considered for eligibility for any of the grant dollars that will be available. The Grant Application is also available on TPA's website at www.tnpharm.org/ePrescribingGrantApp.pdf.

If you have questions about the grant, please call Micah Cost at TPA, 615-256-3023.

Important Information:

- Tennessee is working with prescribers throughout the state to implement ePrescribing.
- Physicians are being incentivized at both the state and federal level to adopt ePrescribing.
- If your pharmacy is not ready to receive electronic prescriptions when prescribers begin to use ePrescribing technology, this will cause problems for your patients, the prescribers in your area and your pharmacy staff.
- Physicians will receive up to a 2% bonus from Medicare for using ePrescriptions, beginning January 1, 2009.
- Beginning in 2012, physicians not compliant with ePrescribing will be docked up to 2% in Medicare reimbursement.
- In order to possibly make grant dollars available for your pharmacy, you should fill out and mail the Grant Application to the TPREF as soon as you receive an invoice for your new software or software upgrades. To be considered, the invoice must be dated on or after December 1, 2008.
- If your pharmacy does not apply, you cannot be considered for eligibility for any of the grant dollars that will be available.

Tennessee Pharmacists Association 615.256.3023 615.255.3528 Fax tpa@tnpharm.org www.tnpharm.org

	PROVIDING INDEPENDENT PHARMACY WITH THE RESOURCES TO STAY COMPETITIVE	

TPREF ePrescription Implementation Grant Application

Pharmacy Name: _____

Pharmacy NPI No.: _____

Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: () _____ Fax () _____

Email: _____

County: _____

Contact Person: _____

Your Pharmacy's Dispensing Software Vendor:

Has your software vendor informed you that their software system has been updated to allow for ePrescribing functionality?

Yes No Explain: _____

Have you updated your current software to accept ePrescriptions? (Note: computer-generated faxes are not ePrescriptions.)

Yes No Explain: _____

What is/was the cost of updating your pharmacy software to be able to accept electronic prescriptions? Invoice dated on or after December 1, 2008, must be attached for consideration.

Please complete this grant application and return with an invoice for new software or software upgrade, and a completed IRS form W-9, to TPREF:

**Tennessee Pharmacists Research and Education Foundation
500 Church Street, Suite 650
Nashville, TN 37219**

The intention is that these state funds will seed the advancement of technical infrastructure in Tennessee's health care community with additional contributions from the community and other stakeholders. This project is funded under an agreement with the Department of Finance and Administration.