

Appendix 13: NCPDP Pharmacy Identification Specification Information

Guidance for NCPDP Data Elements

The NCPDP implementation of INCITS 284 suggests different data element labeling for some of the data elements in order to better meet the needs of the pharmacy industry. The data elements listing in section 6.1 of INCITS 284 are mapped, where appropriate, to NCPDP data elements in Table 6.1. Please note the location and mandatory requirements in INCITS 284 section 6.1 and the order of first name and last name in section 6.4.3 of the NCPDP manual. Complete detailed technical specification information can be found in the NCPDP Health Care Identification Card Pharmacy ID Card Implementation Guide.

NOTE: The current release of NCPDP's Pharmacy ID Card Implementation Guide is version 1.9. NCPDP is expected to release version 2.0 in the Fall of 2006. Significant additions or updates expected in Version 2.0 include: 1) a new section pertaining to combination ID cards containing both medical and pharmacy benefit information; 2) an expanded application of the machine-readable (PDF417 two-dimensional barcode) data record to include situational cardholder demographics and dependent information when applicable; and 3) revised requirements related to the placement on the ID card of the machine readable barcode and dependent names.

Table 6.1

INCITS 284 Description	NCPDP Description(s)	INCITS 284 Label	NCPDP Label	NCPDP v5.1 Maximum Field Size
Card issuer name or logo	Card issuer name or logo	None required	None required	N/A
Card issuer identifier	Card issuer identifier	"Issuer (80840)"	"Issuer (80840)" ³	TBD
Cardholder identification number	Cardholder ID	"ID"	"ID"	20 ⁴
Cardholder identification name	Cardholder first name, middle initial, cardholder last name	"Name"	"Name"	First Name=12; Middle Initial=1; Last Name=15
Account number(s)	BIN, Processor Control Number, and Group ID ⁵	"Account"	"RxBIN", "RxPCN", and "RxGrp" or "Grp" ⁶	RxBIN=6; RxPCN=10; RxGrp=15
Claims submission name(s) and address(es)	Claims submission name(s) and address(es)	A suitable label	A suitable label	N/A
Telephone number(s) and name(s)	Help Desk Telephone number(s) and name(s)	A suitable label	A suitable label	N/A
NOTE: This table is located in section 6 of the NCPDP Health Care Identification Card Pharmacy ID Card Implementation Guide Version 1 Release 8 (April 2004). Materials Reproduced With the Consent of ©National Council for Prescription Drug Programs, Inc. 1988, 1992, 2002, 2004, 2005 NCPDP				

In the label "issuer (80840)," the number "80840" represents the international identifier for USA.

The INCITS 284 standard specifies a maximum of 19 alphanumeric characters for the cardholder identification number. This guide allows an exception in order to comply with the maximum of 20 as defined in the NCPDP data dictionary and to comply with the pharmacy transaction standard adopted under HIPAA.

⁵ Since INCITS 284, section 6.4.4, makes reference to transaction routing information under the definition

of "Account Number(s)," the NCPDP Pharmacy ID Card Implementation Guide maps the pharmacy industry's transaction routing data elements with INCITS 284's data element, "Account Number(s)." See Table 6.2 of this guide for further information on RxBIN, RxPCN, and RxGrp

⁶ "Grp" is only acceptable when the ID card is a combination health care card and the group number is identical for all health care services identified to the cardholder.

In the absence of a single national issuer identifier used for transactions routing, this guide (NCPDP Pharmacy Implementation Guide) requires additional data elements used in the pharmacy industry for transactions routing. Table 6.2 lists three data elements related to transaction routing: BIN (ANSI IIN), processor control number, Group ID.

Table 6.2

Information Element	Standard Label
BIN (ANSI IIN)	"RxBIN"
Processor Control Number	"RxPCN"
Group ID	"RxGrp" or "Grp"
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RxBIN and RxPCN can be thought of as a U.S. zip code + 4. The RxBIN, or BIN number, is analogous to the 5-digit zip code and determines the routing destination. The RxPCN, or processor control number, is analogous to the plus 4 part of a zip code, which gives a more precise destination. In the pharmacy industry, the BIN number may represent the address of a large computer and the processor control number may represent a subset system of the computer. The group number is sometimes used to provide even more precise routing. The processor control and group numbers are required to be on the ID card when the PDPs or MA-PDs require them for proper routing.

Please note that the use of the BIN (ANSI IIN), processor control number, and Group ID data elements may be for an interim period until a time at which wide use of a HIPAA adopted national issuer identifier is evident.

Essential Window Information

As indicated in section 6.3 of INCITS 284, there is an essential information window that must be left justified on the front side of the ID card. The vertical placement may be anywhere along the left margin of the card as long as it does not interfere with the placement of other data elements described in this document.

To conserve vertical space on the ID card, the BIN (ANSI IIN) and Processor Control Number may be printed on the same line. The order of the data elements must be as follows, and no other data may be interspersed between these data elements, as shown in Table 6.3:

Table 6.3

Mandatory Data Elements

<u>Information Element</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Card issuer name or logo	Front, top margin	Reference 3.2.1.2. Upper left corner preferred.
BIN (ANSI IIN)	Front, left side	Reference 3.2.1.1.
Card Issuer Identifier	Front, left side	Reference 3.2.1.1. The value, "80840" in the label, "Issuer (80840)," represents an international identifier for the United States of America. The issuer ID must be an authorized identifier. At the time of this guide's release, this identifier has not yet been enumerated. The most likely candidate for the issuer ID will be the "plan ID" adopted by CMS as a result of the 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Although this identifier does not yet exist, the label must be included on the ID card to be compliant with the INCITS 284 standard.
Cardholder ID	Front, left side	Reference 3.2.1.1.
Cardholder Name	Front, left side	Reference 3.2.1.1.
Claims submission name(s) and address(es)	Back, bottom	Reference 3.2.1.3.
Help Desk Telephone number(s) and names(s)	Back, bottom	Reference 3.2.1.4.

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Data Element Embossing

Refer to Annex E of INCITS 284.

Machine-Readable Formats (only in required states)

Magnetic Stripe

Capacity restrictions with the magnetic stripe standards are such that the magnetic stripe is not a feasible option for a pharmacy ID card implementation. As such, an alternative technology is to be used for a machine-readable pharmacy ID card.

The alternative technology adopted by NCPDP is the Uniform Symbology Specification - PDF417 two-dimensional bar coding standard. This guide instructs card issuers to disregard the INCITS 284 requirement that, at a minimum, a magnetic stripe must be included if any other machine-readable format is implemented.

Table 6.4

NCPDP has adopted the standard as the standard machine-readable format for the Pharmacy ID Card. PDF417 is a multi-row, two-dimensional bar coding symbology or image. The technology was created by Symbol Technologies, Inc.

Its footprint or image size varies depending upon defined user parameters. The data capacity of the image is also determined by the user parameters and the type and order of encoded characters. Alphanumeric characters require more space in the image than numeric characters.

To find more information regarding the PDF417 standard, please refer to Table 6.4.

PDF417 Information	Organization	Website
Complete, official specifications	American National Standards Institute (ANSI)	http://www.ansi.org
2-Dimensional bar code (machine readable devices) basics and PDF417 symbology overview; white papers; applications; case studies;	Symbol Technologies, Inc.	http://www.symbol.com
2-Dimensional bar code (machine readable devices) basics and PDF417 symbology overview	AutolD.org	http://www.autoid.org
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Table 6.5 describes the PDF417 data record layout including the five key data elements that identify

the cardholder and the card issuer.

INCITS Field	NCPDP Mapped Data	Maximum Length	Comments/Values
Start of Text	n/a	1	"%"
Format Character	n/a	1	"H"
Card Issuer	Reserved for future use	18	Anticipated HIPAA plan ID.
Field Separator	n/a	1	"^"
Cardholder ID	Cardholder ID	20	
Field Separator	n/a	1	"^"
Elec Trans Phone	n/a	15	This data element is generally not populated since it is rarely used or is not applicable.
Field Separator	n/a	1	"^"
Reserved Field	Not used	0	
Field Separator	n/a	1	"^"
Qualifier Code	n/a	2	"BN"
Qualified Data	BIN	6	
Field Separator	n/a	1	"^"
Qualifier Code	n/a	2	"PC"
Qualified Data	PCN	10	
Field Separator	n/a	1	"^"
Qualifier Code	n/a	2	"GR"
Qualified Data	Group ID	15	
End of Text	n/a	1	"?"
	Total Maximum Characters	99	
NOTE: This table is located in section 6 of the NCPDP Health Care Identification Card Pharmacy ID Card Implementation Guide Version 1 Release 8 (April 2004). Materials Reproduced With the Consent of ©National Council for Prescription Drug Programs, Inc. 1988, 1992, 2002, 2004, 2005 NCPDP			

Example PDF417 Data Record:

%H^12345678901^^^BN123456^PC1234567890^GR123456789012345?

Extraction of the five key fields from this encoded string would be as follows:

Card Issuer ID <no value>

Card Holder ID 12345678901

BIN (ANSI IIN) 123456

PCN 1234567890

Group ID 123456789012345

PDF417 Image Placement

The PDF417 image, if printed, must be printed as the uppermost item on the back of the ID card. No label for the PDF417 image is necessary.

Pharmacy ID Card PDF417 Technical Specifications

The parameters defined in Table 6.6 allow for a PDF417 image to print in at least the same amount of space that is typically required for a magnetic stripe while maintaining enough capacity to accommodate the PDF417 data record defined in 3.4.2.1 of the NCPDP Manual. PDF417 parameter definitions and value ranges may be found in software or hardware/prINTER manuals. Readers of this guide may also want to consult with their relevant printer vendors. Table 6.7 includes images generated from the sample data record above, "Example PDF417 Data Record," using the specifications defined in Table 6.6.

Table 6.6
Specification NCPDP Valid Values Comments

INCITS Field	NCPDP Mapped Data	Maximum Length	Comments/Values
Start of Text	n/a	1	"%"
Format Character	n/a	1	"H"
Card Issuer	Reserved for future use	18	Anticipated HIPAA plan ID.
Field Separator	n/a	1	"^"
Cardholder ID	Cardholder ID	20	
Field Separator	n/a	1	"^"
Elec Trans Phone	n/a	15	This data element is generally not populated since it is rarely used or is not applicable.
Field Separator	n/a	1	"^"
Reserved Field	Not used	0	
Field Separator	n/a	1	"^"
Qualifier Code	n/a	2	"BN"
Qualified Data	BIN	6	
Field Separator	n/a	1	"^"
Qualifier Code	n/a	2	"PC"
Qualified Data	PCN	10	
Field Separator	n/a	1	"^"
Qualifier Code	n/a	2	"GR"
Qualified Data	Group ID	15	
End of Text	n/a	1	"?"
	Total Maximum Characters	99	

NOTE: This table is located in section 6 of the NCPDP Health Care Identification Card Pharmacy ID Card Implementation Guide Version 1 Release 8 (April 2004).
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Table 6.7

PDF417 Image Sizes (Images represent data record example above.)

DPI

240



300, 400, 600



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INCITS 284 Standard Exception

Section 3.4 of the NCPDP guide specifies the use of the PDF417 standard for pharmacy ID cards. With respect to the INCITS 284 standard, some of the specifications in this section do not comply with the standard for various reasons. The modifications are as follows:

- The PDF417 bar code (machine readable devices) standard is not currently included in the annexes of the INCITS 284 standard. The technologies annexed in the INCITS 284 standard were voted by NCPDP to be either not feasible or too expensive to implement.
- This guide recommends in section 3.4.1 that card issuers disregard the INCITS 284 requirement that, at a minimum, a magnetic stripe must be included if any other machine-readable format is implemented. NCPDP has determined that the capacity limitations of the magnetic stripe make this requirement unreasonable.
- In section 7 of the INCITS 284 standard, machine-readable information is defined. The maximum length specification of the cardholder identification number is 19. NCPDP's data dictionary specifies that the cardholder identification number have a maximum length of 20. Therefore, this guide differs from the INCITS 284 standard and specifies a maximum length of 20 for the cardholder ID.

At the time of this release, NCPDP has made formal recommendations to INCITS to make modifications to the INCITS 284 standard to eliminate the exceptions noted above. INCITS has agreed to the requested changes and a revised standard is expected for release in 2005.

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