



# Proposal To Support National Council for Prescription Drug Programs Standards

## What is the proposal?

In the 2026 CMS Interoperability Standards and Prior Authorization for Drugs proposed rule (CMS-0062-P), CMS is proposing to require impacted payers to support three National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) standards beginning October 1, 2027: the NCPDP SCRIPT, NCPDP Formulary & Benefit (F&B), and NCPDP Real-Time Prescription Benefit (RTPB) standards.

## Which payers would be required to comply with these proposals?<sup>1</sup>

- State Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) programs
- State Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) programs
- Medicaid managed care plans
- CHIP managed care entities
- Qualified Health Plan (QHP) issuers on the Federally-facilitated Exchanges (FfEs)

## What are the functionalities of the NCPDP standards?

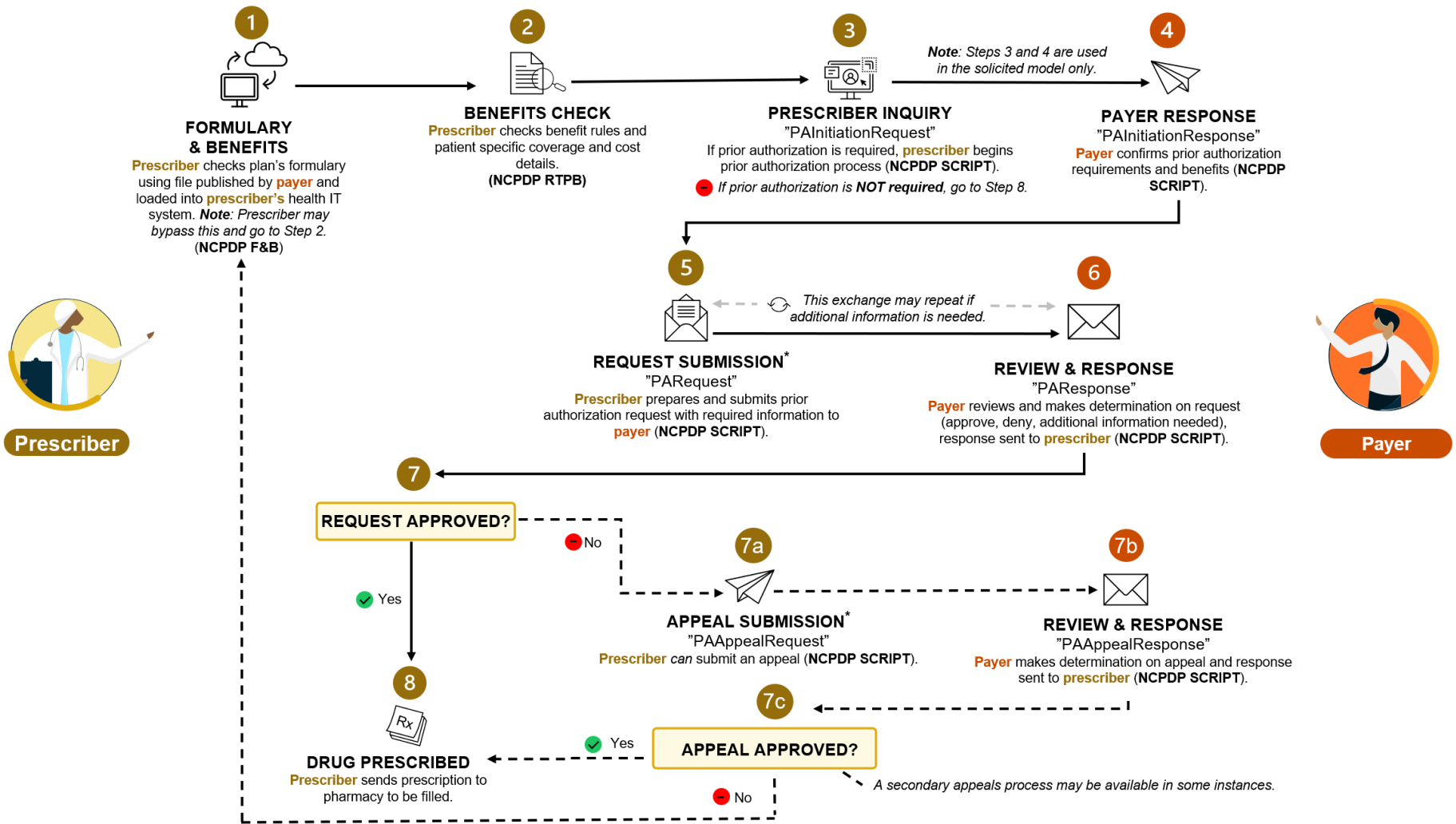
The NCPDP standards allow providers to query formulary information, determine coverage information in real-time, and exchange electronic prior authorization requests and decisions for drugs.

- **NCPDP SCRIPT Standard<sup>®</sup>**: Used by providers for electronic prescribing and to submit electronic prior authorization requests to payers (including the payer’s processor or pharmacy benefit manager [PBM], as appropriate). Payers also use this standard to respond to prior authorization requests.
- **NCPDP F&B Standard<sup>®</sup>**: Provides formulary and benefit information at the health plan/group level.
- **NCPDP RTPB Standard<sup>®</sup>**: Provides real-time exchange of patient-specific eligibility information, drug coverage (including any restrictions and alternatives), and estimated costs at the point of prescribing.

An electronic prior authorization for drugs covered under a pharmacy benefit workflow using NCPDP standards is depicted on the following page.

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<sup>1</sup> Medicare Advantage (MA) organizations are not included as an impacted payer because they are already subject to existing requirements to support the NCPDP SCRIPT, NCPDP F&B, and NCPDP RTPB standards.



\*Prescribers can **cancel** a prior authorization request/appeal ("PACancelationRequest"); the payer will respond ("PACancelResponse") (NCPDP SCRIPT).