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**DATE:** September 20, 2019

**TO:** All Part D Plans

**FROM:** Amy Larrick Chavez Valdez  
Director, Medicare Drug Benefit and C&D Data Group

**SUBJECT:** Implementation of the Updated SCRIPT Standard

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently codified in rule (CMS-4182-F) adoption of a new NCDPD SCRIPT Standard Version 2017071(2017071) and retirement of current NCPDP SCRIPT Version 10.6 (10.6) for use in the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program (Part D) program. The purpose of this memo is to address some questions that have arisen as the industry moves to implement the new standard on January 1, 2020.

*Certification Requirements.* Stakeholders had asked whether Health IT Modules certified to the e-prescribing criterion through the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) should also update their systems to 2017071 in order to comply with the Part D requirements. On Friday September 6, 2019 ONC clarified that implementation of NCPDP 2017071 beginning January 1, 2020 would not risk the product(s) certification to 170.315(b)(3). ONC and Part D agree that Part D plans must comply with Part D's requirements and that ONC will update its requirements to comply with these requirements in the near future. Questions about ONC's certification requirements should be directed [ONC.Certification@hhs.gov](mailto:ONC.Certification@hhs.gov)

*Testing Parameters for Testing.* As mentioned in our May 9, 2018 HPMS memorandum, CMS supports software testing that stakeholders believe would enhance the probability of a successful transition to the new standard on January 1, 2020. CMS has not historically provided guidance as to the types of testing that are appropriate in any given situation. Consistent with that policy we are clarifying that Part D plans have broad discretion when developing test plans for 2017071. CMS defers to Part D plans on the method of testing, as long as Part D plans continue to support 10.6 until January 1, 2020 and 2017071.

We appreciate the efforts that stakeholders are expending in order to ensure a successful transition to the new Part D e-prescribing standard by January 1, 2020. If stakeholders discover noteworthy issues that will affect implementation, we encourage them to reach out to CMS so we can assist in their remediation.

If you have any questions about this memo please contact, [PartD\\_COB@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:PartD_COB@cms.hhs.gov).