

NOTICE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

December 06, 2011

Prescriber ID Requirements for Claims Submitted on the Health Network System (HNS)

On March 18, 2011, pharmacists received notification from the ministry about a new regulation under the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act* which permitted pharmacists to authorize a refill of an existing prescription, under specific conditions (OPDP Notice No. 11026). On April 07, 2011, pharmacists received notification from the ministry about a new regulation under the *Optometry Act* which established a list of drugs that optometrists are authorized to prescribe (OPDP Notice No. 11043).

As a temporary measure, both of these notices directed pharmacists to submit claims to the Health Network System (HNS) for Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) eligible prescriptions authorized by either of these prescriber types using the same process used for an unknown prescriber (i.e. "99" in the Prescriber ID Reference field and "99999" in the Prescriber ID field). The ministry is pleased to announce that changes to the HNS have now been implemented, which will allow claims for prescriptions authorized by pharmacists and optometrists to be submitted using the proper Prescriber ID Reference (i.e. college identifier) and proper Prescriber ID (i.e. college registration number).

Please refer to the table below to determine the proper Prescriber ID Reference number for each authorized prescriber type.

PRESCRIBER ID REFERENCE CHART

PRESCRIBER ID REFERENCE	PRESCRIBER ID REFERENCE #
The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario	01
Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario	02
College of Chiropodists of Ontario	03
College of Midwives of Ontario	08
Ontario College of Pharmacists	09
College of Optometrists of Ontario	43
College of Nurses of Ontario	44

Proper prescriber identification is required for all claims processed through the HNS. This is particularly important as the Drug Profile Viewer (DPV) system has now been implemented in most Ontario hospital emergency rooms and ODB claims information is being used as a tool for providing patient care.

In addition, the *Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act, 2010* directs that prescribers must record their college registration number on all prescriptions for monitored drugs. Pharmacists are required to record this same information, and when the Narcotics Monitoring System (NMS) database is implemented in the Spring of 2012, submissions will require proper prescriber identifiers to be included.

Furthermore, because of these recent system enhancements, and the requirement for accurate submissions to both the HNS and the NMS, **the ministry will be taking steps to remove the unknown prescriber mechanism from the HNS, later in 2012.** What this means is that after that time, any claim submitted to the HNS without a valid Prescriber ID Reference and a valid Prescriber ID will be rejected. Please ensure that you update your pharmacy files to include proper identifiers for all prescribers.

The ministry will continue to monitor claims to ensure that pharmacists are complying with this requirement.