



**John Young,
Deputy Director**



**Jack Huston,
Executive Director
Rhode Island
Pharmacists
Association**



**Catherine Cordy,
Executive Director,
Board of Pharmacy**



**Steve DeToy,
Director of Public
& Government
Affairs**

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Department of Human Services
Medical Assistance Program**

Dear Provider,

The Department of Human Services, along with the Department of Health, the RI Medical Society and the RI Pharmacists Association, is writing this letter to give guidance on changes set forth in the Iraq War Supplemental Appropriations bill, Public Law 110-28, Section 7002 (b) signed into law on May 25, 2007 pertaining to prescriptions dispensed to Medicaid beneficiaries. The law states that any written, non-electronic prescription dispensed to a Medicaid beneficiary as of April 1, 2008 (postponed from October 1, 2007) must contain at least one of the following characteristics. As of October 1, 2008, all three characteristics must be present.

1. One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form. ie: a watermark on the back of the paper, the word VOID appears if copied, colored security background, thermochromic ink.
2. One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber. ie: background ink shows erasures or attempts to change information.
3. One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms. ie: sequentially numbered blanks, listing of security features on prescription.

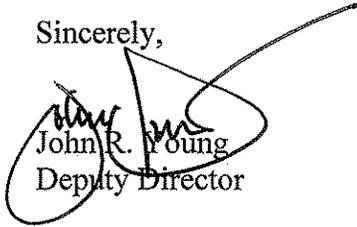
Exemptions to this law are as follows:

1. Prescriptions communicated electronically to the pharmacy from the prescriber either through e-prescribing or fax.
2. Prescriptions telephoned into the pharmacy.
3. Refills of prescriptions that were written prior to April 1, 2008.
4. Prescriptions for beneficiaries paid by a managed care entity.

Emergency fills for prescriptions written on non-tamper proof paper are permitted as long as the prescriber provides a verbal, faxed, electronic or compliant written prescription within 72 hours after the date on which the prescription was filled. This law applies to all out patient covered drugs, including over-the-counter drugs, where Medicaid is either the primary or secondary payer.

If you have any questions, please call Paula J. Avarista, RPh, Chief of Pharmacy, at (401) 462-6390, pavarista@dhs.ri.gov. Please refer to the Department of Human Services website, www.dhs.ri.gov, for further guidance and answers to Frequently Asked Questions, FAQs, on this subject.

Sincerely,



John R. Young
Deputy Director