



**JON S. CORZINE**  
Governor

**New Jersey Office of the Attorney General**  
Division of Consumer Affairs  
Office of the Director  
124 Halsey Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07102



**ANNE MILGRAM**  
Attorney General

**DAVID SZUCHMAN**  
Director

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 45027  
Newark, NJ 07101  
(973) 504-6534

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In March 2008, the Division of Consumer Affairs notified you of recent changes to the format of New Jersey Prescription Blanks. N.J.S.A. 45:14-59 was amended to require that prescription blanks be numbered consecutively and that the blanks include the prescriber's or healthcare facility's National Provider Identifier (NPI). By prior notification, these requirements were to be met by October 1, 2008.

The Division has been alerted to the fact that the supply of prescription blanks preprinted to conform to the new requirements may be inadequate to meet the October 1, 2008 deadline. **As this may affect a patient's ability to receive reimbursement, the Division is extending the deadline for preprinting until regulations are adopted to address this issue.** All prescription blanks are still required to include consecutive numbers, however, you will be permitted to write in or stamp these numbers onto the blanks until regulations are adopted, provided you maintain a system for tracking the consecutive numbers.

This extension also applies to the requirement that prescribers and healthcare facilities preprint their NPI, if they have one, onto the prescription blank. If you have an NPI, you will be permitted to write in or stamp it onto the blanks until regulations are adopted.

If you do not have an NPI, which not all prescribers are required to have, or if you have an NPI and it is not included on a prescription blank, patients may have difficulty obtaining reimbursement from a variety of third-party insurance companies and government-sponsored insurance programs. If you do not have an NPI, you are strongly encouraged to notify your patients who have medical insurance that they may not receive reimbursement from their insurance company.

**NOTICE TO VETERINARIANS:** New Jersey licensed veterinarians are not required to obtain an NPI, but if you already have one you are encouraged to include it on prescription blanks. Veterinarians are required to have prescription blanks consecutively numbered, as delineated above.

If further statutory or regulatory changes in the prescription format occur, the new requirements will be available online at [www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/drug/dchome.htm](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/drug/dchome.htm) .

c: New Jersey Medicaid Director  
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