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14 MAY 1999



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

MEMORANDUM FOR: SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Provider Identification Numbers for Pharmacy

The Pharmacy Data Transaction Service (PDTS) contract has been awarded to MedE America. This service will link all military treatment facility (MTF), commercial, and mail order pharmacies to a centralized data base to provide real time drug utilization reviews for our beneficiaries. The service will also aid in producing effective management and analytic reports that move the DoD pharmacy system toward best business practices as recommended by the General Accounting Office (GAO). The system requires the ability to uniquely identify DoD providers.

Currently, the CHCS does not mandate a standard unique provider identifier. Providers are allowed the option of using their Social Security Account Number (SSAN) or Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) number as their identifier. Although a National Provider Identification Number (NPIN) is being developed by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) which will serve as a unique provider identification for pharmacy purposes, implementation of that system is not anticipated until the end of 2000.

Therefore, pending implementation of the NPIN, each DoD provider whose duties are limited to MTFs will use his/her SSAN as the unique provider number within CHCS for pharmacy order entry (the DEA number was never meant to serve as a provider identification number for issues outside the DEA). Foreign contract DoD providers practicing in overseas MTFs will be assigned a nine-digit code in lieu of a SSAN as an identifier. My point of contact for this issue is Major Steven Humburg, MC, FS, (703) 681-1703 x5210, or Steven. Humburg@ha.osd.mil.

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