



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

DEC 16 2008

Simon P. Cohn, M.D., M.P.H.
Chairman
National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road, Room 2402
Hyattsville, MD 20782


Dear Dr. Cohn:

Thank you for your letter regarding recommendations for uniform standards to enable electronic prescribing (e-prescribing) in long-term care.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are in the process of reviewing the recommendations provided by the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics regarding adoption of e-prescribing standards for use in long-term care.

I appreciate your steadfast interest and commitment to quality health care.

Sincerely,



Michael O. Leavitt