



June 9, 2020

William W. Stead, M.D.
Chairperson, National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road, Room 2402
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Dear Dr. Stead:

Thank you for your letter regarding the findings and recommendations from the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics' (NCVHS) Standards Subcommittee Hearing, held on March 24, 2020, concerning the National Council for Prescription Drugs Programs (NCPDP) Standards. We appreciate the NCVHS' crucial role in supporting administrative efficiency across the healthcare industry. We are committed to adopting the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) transaction standards with a focus on increasing efficiency and minimizing burden on the healthcare industry.

We have reviewed the findings in your letter, and will consider your recommendations carefully as we move forward on this issue. We understand the potential benefits of adoption of the updated versions of the NCPDP F6 that you have identified.

We also understand the necessity of allowing adequate time for planning, development, and testing for all trading partners, to ensure the successful implementation of the updated versions of the NCPDP standards. The testimony offered by NCPDP, as well as the written comments, provided useful insight into the time needed for these implementation activities, and this information will be very useful when the Department of Health and Human Services begins its policy development.

We would like to thank you for your service as Chair of the NCVHS. We value the insights and recommendations from the Committee and look forward to your continued counsel on matters pertaining to the HIPAA standards and operating rules.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Kimberly Brandt.

Kimberly Brandt
Principal Deputy Administrator for Operations