



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

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Mark D. Birdwhistell
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Dear Pharmacist in Charge:

On May 15, 2007, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) awarded RelayHealth (formerly NDCHealth/Per-Se) an exclusive contract to enhance and begin managing data collection for the Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting (KASPER) system. As you are aware, KRS 218A.202 and 902 KAR 55:110 set forth the requirements for reporting Schedule II-V controlled substances dispensed in Kentucky to the KASPER system.

CHFS plans to transition Kentucky dispensers to the new KASPER data collection program late this year. During the transition period, RelayHealth is working with CHFS and members of the pharmacy community to define and design processes for capturing reporting information in ways that avoid workflow disruptions at your point-of-service.

Our primary goal for this change is to improve the value of the KASPER database by populating it with cleaner and timelier data. The current electronic process involves an eight-day batch reporting cycle which can take 15 days or more to update the database. RelayHealth will provide additional data collection options to reduce the time-to-availability, including an option to use RelayHealth's existing pharmacy claims processing network to automatically transfer required reporting data into the KASPER system within one day of dispensing.

The new processes are being designed to help pharmacies:

- reduce operating costs (this is a no-cost program to pharmacies);
- centralize and streamline the controlled substance reporting process;
- meet Kentucky compliance regulations; and
- take advantage of delivery options with superior security over batch submission, with data protected through all phases of transmission.

The new program is planned to go live with a statewide rollout by the end of 2007. In late summer 2007, we will begin a 30-day beta test to a limited number of pharmacies. For about 60 days before

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final rollout, we will run a parallel production environment with the state's existing vendor to ensure that data is properly transmitted and tracked with no data loss.

This process is based on our continued efforts to minimize the impact of Schedule II-V controlled substance reporting on your workflow and operating costs. It is likely your claims may already pass through the RelayHealth network, in which case you can choose a new switch-based reporting option with minimal anticipated effect on your operations. Regardless of the data submission option you choose, rest assured that no prescription data for your pharmacy will be included in controlled substance data deliveries by RelayHealth until we have secured written authorization from you.

RelayHealth has been a leader in the healthcare technology and claims processing arena for over 30 years, and we are confident its leadership position will further enhance the KASPER program. In the near future, you will be receiving more detailed information about this data collection initiative from RelayHealth. To learn more about RelayHealth and its controlled substance reporting solution for Kentucky pharmacies, please call 800.388.2316 or visit www.relayhealth.com. For information regarding the KASPER program contact the Drug Enforcement and Professional Practices Branch at 502.564.7985 or visit the KASPER Web site at www.chfs.ky.gov/kasper.

Thank you in advance for your support of this important effort.

Sincerely,



Steven D. Davis
Inspector General

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