

10.2 - Definition of Terms

(Rev. 11, Issued: 02-19-10, Effective/Implementation Date: 03-01-10)

For the purposes of this *chapter* the following definitions apply:

Dispenser—means a person or other legal entity licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted by the jurisdiction in which the person practices or the entity is located to provide drug products for human use by prescription in the course of professional practice.

Electronic media—means electronic storage media including memory devices in computers (hard drives), and any removable/transportable digital memory medium, such as magnetic tape or disk, optical disk, or digital memory card; or transmission media used to exchange information already in electronic storage media. Transmission media include, for example, the Internet (wide open), extranet (using Internet technology to link a business with information only accessible to collaborating parties), leased lines, dial-up lines, private networks, and the physical movement of removable/transportable electronic storage media. Certain transmissions, including of paper, via facsimile, and of voice, via telephone, are not considered to be transmissions via electronic media, because the information being exchanged did not exist in electronic form before the transmission.

[NOTE: Computer-generated fax transmissions start with data that is in an electronic form, and thus qualify as transmissions using electronic media. Absent the current exemption in 42 CFR 423.160(a)(3) to a particular Part D standard (the “NCPDP SCRIPT 8.1” standard), such transmissions could not meet the Part D e-prescribing standards (because they cannot be transmitted using NCPDP SCRIPT 8.1). The exemption was allowed due to fears that the imposition of final e-prescribing standards would drive computer-generated faxers to revert to paper.]

E-prescribing—means the transmission using electronic media, of prescription or prescription-related information between a prescriber, dispenser, pharmacy benefit manager, or health plan, either directly or through an intermediary, including an e-prescribing network. E-prescribing includes, but is not limited to, two-way transmissions between the point of care and the dispenser.

Electronic prescription drug program—means a program that provides for e-prescribing for covered Part D drugs prescribed for Part D eligible individuals.

Immediate need – *For Part D complaints, an “immediate” complaint is defined as a life-threatening complaint* that is related to the beneficiary’s need for medication when the beneficiary has 2 or less days of medication *remaining*.

Prescriber—means a physician, dentist, or other person licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted by the U.S. or the jurisdiction in which he or she practices, to issue prescriptions for drugs for human use.

Prescription-related information—means information regarding eligibility for drug benefits, medication history, or related health or drug information for Part D eligible individuals.

Urgent need – For Part D complaints, an “urgent” complaint is defined as a complaint that is related to the beneficiary’s need for medication when the beneficiary has 3 to 14 days of medication remaining.