

March 25, 1998

TODAY'S NEWS

for State Medicaid Directors

WEST POINT PHARMA (LABELER #59591)

West Point Pharma has informed HCFA that states continue to submit quarterly invoices for their products requesting rebates for substantial utilization, despite the fact that this company has sold absolutely no products since March 1, 1995.

Considering this fact, it seems likely that most supplies of labeler 59591 products have been exhausted before now and utilization should be almost non-existent.

Since generic substitutes are widely available for all these drugs, West Point Pharma has requested that we ask all states to assure that pharmacies submitting bills for these products are using the correct NDC number.

REINSTATED LABELER

Halsey Drug Company, Inc. (Labeler Code 00879) has signed a new rebate agreement and will be reinstated in the drug rebate program **effective April 1, 1998**. New personnel at this company are busy identifying missing quarterly pricing and computing interest for the late payment of rebates. States should anticipate receiving prior period adjustments of unit rebate amounts during the next several quarters.

TERMINATED LABELER

The following labeler is being voluntarily terminated effective July 1, 1998:

Becton Dickinson Microbiology Systems (Labeler Code 00011).

ATTACHMENTS

Copies of the topic index and a listing of the 90-day treasury bill auction rates for the period September 15, 1997 through March 23, 1998 are attached.

Please remember to direct your drug rebate questions to a staff member listed in section "O" of the Medicaid Drug Rebate Operational Training Guide.

/s/

Sally K. Richardson
Director
Center for Medicaid and State Operations

2 Attachments

cc:

All State Drug Rebate Technical Contacts

All Regional Administrators

All Associate Regional Administrators, Division of Medicaid