


 The logo features a stylized yellow and black circle with a swoosh above the word "ARGUS" in a sans-serif font. Below "ARGUS" is the word "INSIDER" in a large, bold, serif font, with a large "X" at the end of the word.

ARGUS™ INSIDER_X

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Argus News

Gateway Health Plan Vaccine Administration

Pharmacies that have the facilities to administer vaccines within their pharmacy that are currently contracted under the Argus Network for Commercial Vaccine Administration and Argus Network for Gateway Health Plan are eligible to participate in the new Gateway Health Plan vaccine administration for flu vaccines and H1N1. Please contact the Argus Help Desk at **1-800-522-7487**, if you have questions.

CareFirst Employee Group Migration

Effective January 1, 2010, CareFirst will be migrating some of its members to a new system resulting in new healthcare ID numbers. During this transition, pharmacies must update their systems and member profiles with the new ID numbers in order to successfully process claims. The old ID numbers will no longer be valid and will not show eligibility for the newly migrated members. Contact the Argus Pharmacy Help Desk at **1-888-850-4999**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, if you have any questions about processing claims for CareFirst.

New Priority Health Group

Effective January 1, 2010, Argus will be processing claims for a new group through Priority Health called UAW Retirees Medical Benefits Trust. Members have been instructed to present their new UAW Retirees Medical Benefits Trust ID card to the pharmacies on January 1, 2010. Some retirees will have a change in their prescription drug benefit. If you have any questions about

processing claims for UAW Retirees Medical Benefits Trust please contact the Priority Health Pharmacy Help Desk at, 1-800-466-6642.

Industry News

Database Proposed to Monitor Drug Safety

A study published in the Archives of Internal Medicine proposes a new public database to track and monitor drug safety. This database would also detail data that independent researchers could use. With a database regularly updated with new information, it could help monitor the safety of a drug.

[Click here for further information.](#)

Tamiflu Shortage Update

The Food and Drug Administration has advised that additional quantities of commercially prepared Tamiflu for Oral Suspension are becoming available and being shipped to wholesalers and pharmacies. These quantities will not resolve the current shortage issues in all areas.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Blood Pressure Controlled Better with Doctor-Pharmacist Teams

Studies conducted at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy show that high blood pressure is better controlled by doctor-pharmacist teams instead of doctors and pharmacists working alone. According to the study, 64 percent of participants who were treated by a team of pharmacists and physicians for six months experienced a drop in blood pressure versus 30 percent of participants who were involved in a "traditional treatment group."

[Click here for more information.](#)

CMS Regulations

Updates to Payer Sheets

Effective January 1, 2010, payer sheets will be updated for the Prescription Origin Code (NCPDP Field 419-DJ) and the Fill Date (NCPDP Field 403-D3). Refer to the appropriate Payer Sheet available at <http://www.argushealth.com>

for further information. Please call the Pharmacy Help Desk at **1-800-522-7487** if you have any questions.

835 File Cycle Changes

Argus is changing the 835 production to have an 835 generated consistently with our contracted network cycles of the 8th, 16th, 24th, EOM.

Due to the new MIPPA provision that states, "Payment shall be issued, mailed, or otherwise transmitted with respect to all clean claims electronically submitted by pharmacies (other than mail order only or located in, or contracted with, a LTC facility) within 14 calendar days after the date on which the claim is received", Argus is changing the frequency in which the 835 file will be produced. As of Jan. 1, 2010, the 835 file cycle dates will be the 8th, 16th, 24th and end of each month, and should be available to pharmacies within 7 business days of these dates.

Any questions or concerns with the implementation of the new dates should be directed to our recon customer service department. You may contact them at **866-211-9459** or by email reconcustomerservice@argushealth.com.

Non-Matched NDCs Changes

Beginning in January 2010, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will be enforcing its policy regarding non-matched National Drug Codes. Any medication not registered with the Food and Drug Administration will not be covered under Medicare Part D. It is estimated that thousands of products are included on the non-matched drug list and will be denied by Medicare Part D.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Drug Shortages

- Azmacort Inhalation Aerosol (Discontinuation)
 - ♦ [Click here for more information.](#)
- Humulin 50/50 (Discontinuation)
 - ♦ [Click here for more information.](#)
- Erythromycin Ophthalmic Ointment
 - ♦ [Click here for more information.](#)
- Tikosyn (500mcg and 250mcg capsules)
 - ♦ [Click here for more information.](#)
- Methotrexate Injection
 - ♦ [Click here for more information.](#)