

For Immediate Release

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### **NeedyMeds Establishes Robust Patient-Centered Medicine Access and Education Program**

*The NCPIE BeMedWise program under the auspices of NeedyMeds provides one-stop access to affordable medicines, patient information to promote safe use, storage and disposal of medicines*

(July 24, 2018, Gloucester, MA) After nearly four decades of helping consumers make sound decisions about their health and wise decisions about the prescription and over-the-counter medicines they take, the [National Council on Patient Information and Education \(NCPIE\)](#) has handed off its educational resources to the national non-profit group [NeedyMeds](#), based in Gloucester, MA.

Under the guidance of its board of directors, NCPIE has completed the process of dissolution and transfer to NeedyMeds of a broad range of educational assets including its primary website, [www.BeMedWise.org](http://www.BeMedWise.org) and two related sites, ground-breaking research on patient – healthcare provider engagement / medicine communication and its annual “[Talk About Your Medicines](#)” Month campaign, which NCPIE sponsored each October since 1986. NeedyMeds is a leading voice to help people find assistance with the cost of medications and healthcare services. The NCPIE mission - promoting safe and appropriate medicine use through trusted communication for better health, complements NeedyMed’s diverse services.

Richard Sagall, M.D., NeedyMeds’ president and founder, sees great value in the acquisition of NCPIE’s medicine education programs, which will enable NeedyMeds to provide useful and actionable patient information across the entire medicine use continuum: access to needed medicines; safe and appropriate use of medicines; safe storage of medicines and safe disposal of unused medicines.

“Everyone at NeedyMeds is very excited to work with Deborah and Ray in continuing their great work,” said Sagall. “Adding their education resources to our offerings fills a gap we have long wanted to address.”

To guide the transition, Deborah Davidson, with nearly 20 years of NCPIE experience, has joined the NeedyMeds staff with responsibility for managing the evolution of the **BeMedWise Program at NeedyMeds**. Ray Bullman, who led NCPIE for more than 33 years as Executive Vice President, is helping with the transition as a volunteer advisor.

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In the coming weeks, NeedyMeds will be announcing additional information about the **BeMedWise Program at NeedyMeds**. Bookmark [NeedyMeds.org](http://NeedyMeds.org), NCPIE's [BeMedWise.org](http://BeMedWise.org) and social media and check back for details.

### **About NeedyMeds**

NeedyMeds provides information on thousands of pharmaceutical patient assistance programs (PAPs), copay programs, and other types of financial assistance for those experiencing a hardship paying for medications and healthcare costs. The [NeedyMeds](http://NeedyMeds.org) website is visited by up to 14,000 visitors daily. All of the data is free, easy to access, and updated regularly. The toll-free helpline assists over 5,000 people every month to find programs. All access is anonymous. As part of their expansion into health education, NeedyMeds maintains three additional websites: [Safe Needle Disposal](http://SafeNeedleDisposal.org), which provides information on how to safely and legally dispose of home-generated used sharps; [HealthWeb Navigator](http://HealthWebNavigator.org), providing reviews of health-related websites, and [Findcare](http://Findcare.org), a repository of information on free/low cost/sliding scale clinics in the U.S.

### **About NCPIE**

Organized in 1982, the National Council on Patient Information and Education (NCPIE), worked collaboratively with a dedicated group of consumer, government, patient advocacy, healthcare professional and public health organization stakeholders, including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), to address critical medicine safe use issues like adherence improvement, prescription drug abuse prevention, reduction of medication errors, and quality improvements in healthcare provider-patient communication.

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