

Pharm-PAC Agency Liaison Report
Indian Health Service National Pharmacy Council
September 2007
Submitted by CDR Bradley Bishop

- RADM Richard Church has retired from the Commissioned Corps after a distinguished 34-year career, serving as Chief Pharmacist of the IHS and Chief Professional Officer for the USPHS Pharmacy Category. His most recent assignment was Director, Office of Public Health Support. RADM Charles Grim, IHS Director, announced that RADM Church has been selected to continue his service to IHS in this capacity as a Civil Servant. As Director of the OPHS, he will continue to provide national leadership in several critical public health support areas including medical epidemiology; program statistics; planning, evaluation, and research; and health professions support.
- The IHS Principal Pharmacy Consultant vacancy is pending advertisement.
- As many are aware, CMS has released requirements for tamper-proof prescription pads for prescriptions written for Medicaid patients that goes into effect 10/1/2007. Because many IHS facilities accept outside prescriptions for Medicaid patients or provide written prescriptions to patients for filling at outside pharmacies (even if it is for occasional non-formulary medications, etc) it is critical that IHS pharmacists be aware of this requirement. Each state has been charged with identifying the specific requirement to be considered tamper-proof.
- There has been a lot of traffic on the IHS Pharmacy listserv recently about the Adverse Reaction Tracking Package in the RPMS system. Many sites have not properly matched allergies to VA Drug Classification in the drugfile. Consequently, order checks for medications order through the Electronic Health Record (EHR) or entered by pharmacy into the system are not triggering proper alerts to patients' allergies.
- Pharmacy Practice Training Program (PPTP) is complete for this year with a good turnout in each of the classes.