NDC Intergovernmental Workshop – December 10, 2026

On March 5, 2026, FDA published a final rule titled *Revising the National Drug Code and Drug Label Barcode Requirements*. The rule makes significant changes to the NDC structure and drug label barcode requirements, including:

- Standardizing the NDC to a uniform 12-digit format (6-4-2 configuration);
- Updating barcode requirements to allow both linear and 2D barcodes (e.g., data matrix), aligned with the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA); and
- Establishing an effective date of March 7, 2033, with a labeling transition period through March 6, 2036.

FDA is inviting government stakeholders to its December 10, 2026 workshop to discuss the upcoming changes and help all agencies start planning for implementation. An in-person attendance is highly encouraged but not required.

Draft Agenda

9:00 am – 9:05 am: Welcome and housekeeping announcements (FDA)

9:05 am – 9:15 am: Keynote speaker remarks (FDA)

9:15 am – 9:45 am: Revising the National Drug Code and Drug Label Barcode Requirements (FDA)

9:45 am – 10:00 am: CMS's update (CMS)

10:00 am – 10:45 am: Breakout room discussions (FDA)

Be prepared to discuss the list of questions below within your group:

- How do you use the NDC?
- What NDC format do you currently use?
- What are your downstream and upstream partners/customers?
- Do you have IT systems that use the NDC?
- Do you have any regulations or policies that mention the NDC?
- Do you use barcode scanners? Are they camera-based scanners?
- What are some of the pain points for your agency?

10:45 am – 11:00 am: Coffee break and networking

11:00 am – 12 pm: Breakout presentations

12:00 pm – 12:15 pm: Drafting a high-level roadmap (FDA)

12:15 pm – 12:30 pm: Next steps and closing remarks (FDA)