



Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances – A Vendor’s Viewpoint

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Background

- DrFirst
 - eRx since 2001
 - High-volume sender of electronic prescriptions
- James Chen
 - Founded V-One
 - Pioneered VPN
 - Prior work with PKI and smart cards dating back >10 years





Key Points

- Patient Safety
- Adoption of eRx
- PKI/Smartcard
- Fraud and Abuse

ePrescribing Advantages

- Patient Safety
 - Clinical edits
 - Elimination of transcription errors
 - Improved first-fill compliance
- Savings
 - Improved formulary adherence
 - Increased use of generic medications
 - Improved office workflow
 - Reduced phone calls/faxes with pharmacies and PBMs
- Enforcement (discussed later)
 - Enhanced data collection
 - Audit trails & reporting





Adoption

- 11-15% of Rx are for controlled substances
- Currently require 2 different workflows
- Cell phone analogy
- Universal adoption

Current DrFirst Security

- Encrypted transmission
- Unique user names and passwords
- Separate e-signature PIN for licensed prescribers
- Transmission to backbones: VPN or leased line
- Initial user validation for prescribers
- Human intervention when Rx dispensed
- We believe this is appropriate level of security for ePrescriptions





PKI/Smartcards

- Better solution for authentication/non-repudiation
- Perfect vs. good
- Central certification authority
- Examples: NCPDP and AMA
- Closed vs. open system
- Protection of private key
- “Tread lightly”





Fraud & Abuse

- Enhanced data collection
- Audit trails
- Sophisticated & automated reporting