



# Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances

Drug Enforcement Administration &  
Health & Human Services Public Meeting

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# Pharmacy Perspectives Panel

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# Presentation Topics

- Benefits of electronic prescribing
- Strategic considerations for controlled substance prescriptions
- Implementation recommendations



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# Benefits of E-Prescribing

- Efficiencies in the health care system
  - Improved access to:
    - Patient medical records
    - Drug utilization history
    - Drug interactions
    - Health insurance
    - Therapeutic alternatives



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## Benefits of E-Prescribing (cont.)

- Reduce medication errors
- Reduce prescription forgeries
- Improve recordkeeping controls
- Enhanced enforcement
- Reduce overall costs
- Speed access to needed medications
- Detect fraud and abuse



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## Benefits of E-Prescribing (cont.)

- To increase adoption of technology, the system must be:
  - Cost effective
  - User friendly
  - Free from administrative burdens



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# Strategic Considerations

- **Current environment:**
  - Schedule II require written prescription; emergency exception
  - Schedule III and IV written or oral
  - Initialed by dispensing pharmacist
  - Stored and readily retrievable



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## Strategic Considerations (cont.)

- **Modify Regulations to Clarify:**
  - Definition of “written prescription”
  - Definitions of “signed” and “signature”
  - E-prescriptions are not subject to the “seven day” rule
  - Pharmacists may initial and annotate prescriptions electronically
  - Electronic storage is acceptable



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## Strategic Considerations (cont.)

- **Fraud and Diversion Prevention:**
  - Pharmacists evaluate prescription
  - Know the prescriber
  - Know or can access the prescriber's DEA number
  - Know the patient
  - Contact prescriber for questionable prescriptions

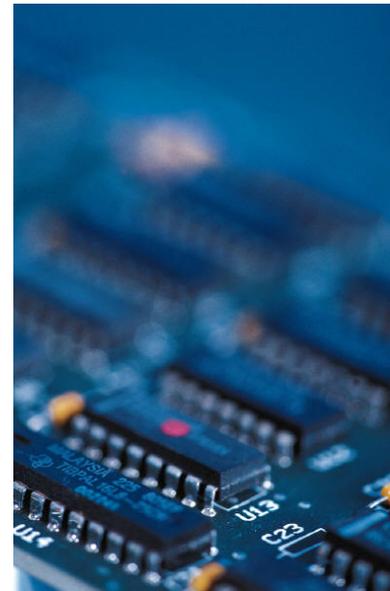


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# Implementation Recommendations

- Use existing technology
- Existing e-prescribing vendors/systems are secure and HIPAA-compliant



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## Implementation Recommendations (cont.)

- Need one seamless, integrated system for both controlled and non-controlled drugs
- Use HHS/CMS standards for electronic prescriptions
- Use NCPDP SCRIPT Standard 5.0



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## Implementation Recommendations (cont.)

- Incorporate the National Provider Identifier (NPI)
  - Allow for two-way communication between pharmacists and prescribers
- Work with the health care community to implement e-prescribing quickly



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## Conclusion

- E-prescribing can facilitate quality and efficient patient care
- System must not create administrative burdens or new opportunities for fraud
- Diversion and abuse concerns can be handled by existing technology through one seamless, integrated system



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Thank You

Questions?



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