



An Arizona Campaign to Increase the E-Prescribing of Controlled Substances

The e-prescribing of controlled substances (EPCS) improves patient safety, quality and practice workflow in addition to reducing fraud and prescribing errors. In addition, EPCS will soon be a state requirement for all prescriptions of a Schedule II opioid.

Arizona Opioid E-Prescribing Requirement

Beginning **January 1, 2019**, each prescription order for a Schedule II opioid in Arizona's six largest counties (Maricopa, Mohave, Pima, Pinal, Yavapai and Yuma) must be transmitted electronically to the dispensing pharmacy. Beginning **July 1, 2019**, these same requirements go into effect in all other Arizona counties (Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Navajo and Santa Cruz).

Benefits of EPCS

- **Improves prescribing workflow with all prescriptions managed/stored in one application.**
EPCS allows non-controlled and controlled prescriptions to be managed or controlled in one workflow and condenses record keeping for all of a patient's prescription history. Not only does this save valuable time, it also provides other efficiencies such as being able to check a patient's health plan drug coverage at the same time.
- **Improves patient safety and quality.**
E-prescribing through an EHR reduces prescription errors by 50 percent or more through clinical drug alerts, and the legibility and transcription errors of paper are eliminated. In addition, EPCS improves quality and patient adherence. Patients prefer e-prescriptions and say they are more likely to pick up an e-prescription that can be immediately available.
- **Reduces fraud and help fight the opioid epidemic.**
EPCS reduces fraud by eliminating paper prescriptions that can be tampered with, lost or stolen. In addition, a prescriber's DEA number is no longer out in circulation on paper prescriptions.

EPCS Steps for Prescribers

1. Contact your EHR or e-prescribing vendor and ask if they are certified to do EPCS
2. Complete identity proofing requirement
3. Obtain dual authentication device or process
4. Set up access controls
5. Go live with EPCS and adjust workflow to manage all prescriptions in one application

More information on EPCS Steps for Prescribers is available [here](#)

A One-Time, One-Year Waiver Available: Deadline December 15, 2018

A one-time, one-year waiver is available to practitioners who face hardships that prevent the implementation of EPCS. If you determine that you will be unable to meet the EPCS requirements, you can download a [waiver form](#) and email the completed form to pmp@azpharmacy.gov.