



About E-Prescribing

How Does E-Prescribing Work?

E-Prescribing gives the provider the ability to electronically send, at the point of care, an accurate, error-free and understandable prescription from the computer at the practice to the computer system at the patient's pharmacy of choice. Pharmacies can also request refills by sending an electronic refill request to the physician office for approval.

How Does E-Prescribing Benefit Providers?

By Saving Time. Prescription refill authorization requests are sent directly to provider's computer. Provider can then review and respond to all pending requests with a few keystrokes. This streamlined process reduces pharmacy faxes and phone calls and allows provider to complete refill authorizations in much less time.

By Enhancing Staff Productivity. The reduction in pharmacy faxes and phone calls associated with refill requests, legibility issues, drug incompatibility or ineligibility will provide your practice with more time to devote to patient care.

By Improving Patient Safety. According to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) 1.5 million preventable medication errors occur in the United States each year. Pharmacy connectivity can help prevent medication errors and the injuries they cause.

By Providing Access to a Single View of Patient Rx History. Accessing a single view of a patient's medication across providers during a patient's office visit helps to decrease the risk of preventable medication errors and increase your ability to manage a patient's adherence and compliance.

How Does E-Prescribing Benefit Patients?

- Rx goes from provider's computer directly to patient's pharmacy
- Rx arrives at the pharmacy before patient leaves provider's office
- No paper for patient to drop off
- No handwriting to interpret

Is Faxing a Prescription to the Pharmacy E-Prescribing?

No. E-prescribing is the two-way, computer-to-computer connection between a medical practice and a pharmacy. E-prescribing involves no faxing of prescriptions – it is paperless. Most EMR users believe that they already send prescriptions to pharmacies electronically – i.e. they are unaware that it is far more likely that their EMR is generating faxes that arrive on paper at the pharmacy's fax machine.

How Does E-Prescribing Work?

The diagram below illustrates the steps in the e-prescribing process.



How Does E-Prescribing Fit with Meaningful Use?

E-prescribing is one of the more mature and successful components of the meaningful use criteria established by CMS. The following aspects of Stage 1 meaningful use are supported by e-prescribing:

- 40 percent of prescriptions must be transmitted electronically
- Drug-drug and drug-allergy interaction checking must be performed
- Active medication lists must be maintained
- Allergy list must be maintained
- Medication reconciliation must be performed
- Information must be exchanged electronically
- Formulary checking (menu option in Stage 1, expected to be required in Stage 2)

References

Clinician's Guide to e-Prescribing at www.thecimm.org
 US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration