Electronic Prescribing Guide

This guide is provided to you by Surescripts®, the Nation’s E-Prescription Network to help you learn more about adopting and using e-prescribing technology.

Surescripts’ e-prescribing network is used by thousands of physicians nationwide to prescribe medications without the use of paper, pens or fax.

What Types of Prescription Information Can I Exchange or Manage Electronically?

**Prescription Benefit:** Surescripts’ Prescription Benefit service puts eligibility and formulary information at a prescriber’s fingertips at the time of prescribing. This enables prescribers to select medications that are on formulary and are covered by the patient’s drug benefit. It also informs them of lower cost alternatives such as generic drugs and ultimately ensures that the staff in the pharmacy receives a “clean” script. Prescribers access prescription benefit information through software from a vendor that is certified for these services.

**Medication History:** Surescripts delivers medication history information across providers during a patient’s office visit through electronic prescribing and electronic health record systems that are certified for the Medication History service. The service is made possible by Surescripts’ ability to securely access and aggregate patient medication history data from community pharmacies and patient medication claims history from payers and pharmacy benefit managers.

Prescribers who can access critically important information on their patient’s current and past medications are better informed about potential medication issues with their patients and can use this information to improve safety and quality. Medication History can also be used for reconciliation support for patients being treated in an inpatient setting.

**Prescription Routing:** Surescripts’ Prescription Routing service allows prescribers to prepare and send a prescription directly to the computer at over 85 percent of the nation’s retail pharmacies and six of the nation’s largest mail order pharmacies. In turn, pharmacies can use this service to send requests for prescription renewals directly to the computer at a practice where prescribers can review and respond to them directly.

How do CMS Programs and Regulations Impact E-Prescribing?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have introduced programs and regulations that support the use of electronic prescribing technology.

**E-Prescribing and the HITECH Act**

The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act is a key component of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The main goal of the HITECH Act is to encourage the adoption of electronic medical records (EMRs) through incentive payments to physicians.

According to the Act, eligible prescribers to receive up to $44,000 in incentive payments by meeting qualitative and quantitative standards for the ‘meaningful use’ of a certified EMR starting in 2011.

E-prescribing is a key component of ‘meaningful use’. Prescribers who wish to participate in this program should ensure that their chosen EMR system includes e-prescribing functionality that establishes an electronic connection with payers and pharmacies.
**Medicare’s E-Prescribing Incentive Program**

Beginning in 2009 and continuing during the four years that follow, Medicare will provide incentive payments to eligible professionals who are successful electronic prescribers as defined by the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act. Eligible professionals who are successful electronic prescribers will receive 2 percent incentive payments on their Part B billings in 2009 and 2010, 1 percent incentive payments in 2011 and 2012, and 0.5 percent incentive payments in 2013. Those not adopting e-prescribing by 2012 will face penalties starting at 1%, which will rise to 2% after 2013.

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<thead>
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<th>2013</th>
<th>Beyond</th>
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<tr>
<td>Incentive</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<td>0.5%</td>
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<td>1.5%</td>
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Prescribers that use applications to prepare and send prescriptions to e-prescribing capable pharmacies by computer generated fax should be aware that these prescriptions are not eligible for the Medicare incentive payments. In addition to other requirements, prescriptions must be able to be transmitted to the computer at the pharmacy — if that pharmacy is e-prescribing enabled. More than 85% of the nation’s pharmacies process prescriptions electronically.

**New Rules Surrounding Fax-Based Prescription Transmissions to Pharmacies**

Beginning January 1, 2012 Part D prescriptions can no longer be sent to pharmacies by computer generated fax. If your EMR or e-prescribing system is not enabled to send prescriptions to pharmacies electronically by this date prescriptions must be printed and handed to the patient, or manually faxed.

**E-Prescribing and Medicare’s Tamper Proof Requirement**

As of October 1, 2008, CMS requires all written Medicaid prescriptions to be on a tamper resistant blank. Electronic prescriptions are excluded from this requirement.

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**How Do I Get Started With E-Prescribing?**

**STEP 1:**

If your practice already uses prescribing software, determine its Surescripts certification status.

Visit [www.surescripts.com/certified](http://www.surescripts.com/certified) for a comprehensive certification status of e-prescribing and EMR software for Prescription Benefit, Medication History and Prescription Routing services.
**STEP 2:**

Does your practice use a certified technology?

**If Yes:** Please contact your vendor and request your connection to the Surescripts network. **Be sure to explain that you want to be enabled for all available e-prescribing services,** which may include Prescription Benefit, Medication History, and Prescription Routing (new prescriptions and renewals).

**You may also wish to ask the following questions:**
- Is a system upgrade required?
- Are there any additional costs involved?
- What kind of training will be provided?

**If No:** Please move to Step 3.

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**STEP 3:**

Acquiring e-prescribing technology for your practice:

Physicians interested in e-prescribing should use standalone e-prescribing software or an electronic medical record (EMR) that has been certified to connect to the Surescripts network.

Visit [www.surescripts.com/certified](http://www.surescripts.com/certified) for the most up-to-date listing of e-prescribing and EMR vendors who have products certified for access to ambulatory Prescription Benefit, Medication History, and Prescription Routing services on the Surescripts network.

- Determine which services are important to you (Prescription Benefit, Medication History, Prescription Routing). Then contact the vendors to compare their e-prescribing offerings.

- **When you contact a software vendor, ask the following questions:**
  1. What is the cost? What do I need to purchase? Are there monthly maintenance fees?
  2. Does the software have the ability to provide information on formulary or tiered formulary medications, patient eligibility, and authorization requirements from the patient’s drug plan? Can it provide information on lower-cost, therapeutically appropriate alternatives?
  3. Does the software have the ability to generate a complete medication list that incorporates data from pharmacies and PBMs (if available)?
  4. Does your software allow me to manage both new prescriptions and renewal authorizations with pharmacies electronically?
  5. Does the e-prescribing functionality included in the software allow it to qualify for incentive payments under the MIPPA and HITECH Act programs?

Information at your fingertips

Download a buyer’s guide at [www.surescripts.com](http://www.surescripts.com)
### Appendix: Surescripts Gold Solution Providers

**Surescripts Gold Solution Providers**

This status is granted to vendors with software products that have gone beyond Surescripts baseline product certification to meet benchmarks that signal a higher level of commitment to e-prescribing.

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<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tr>
<td>Allscripts</td>
<td>ePrescribe 15.1</td>
<td>1-888-672-2433</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAW Systems</td>
<td>ScriptSure 7.6</td>
<td>1-866-755-1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>DrFirst</td>
<td>Rcopia 3.x</td>
<td>1-888-271-9898</td>
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<tr>
<td>H2H Solutions</td>
<td>DigitalRx 2.1</td>
<td>1-888-470-4553</td>
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<td>Pulse Systems</td>
<td>Pulse ERx/ePrescribing 4.1</td>
<td>1-800-444-0882</td>
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<td>1-800-444-0882</td>
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<tr>
<td>RxNT</td>
<td>RxNT EHR 7.04</td>
<td>1-800-943-RxNT (7968)</td>
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<td>Waiting Room Solutions</td>
<td>Waiting Room Solutions 4.0</td>
<td>1-866-977-4367</td>
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**Information at your fingertips**


For more information visit [www.surescripts.com](http://www.surescripts.com) or call the Electronic Prescribing Resource Center at 1-866-RxReady (797-3239).