

Can we
e-prescribe
controlled
substances?



Yes, you can. It's legal to e-prescribe controlled substances in Ohio!

While you may have heard otherwise, it's legal to e-prescribe controlled substances in Ohio, as well as in 48 other states. To ensure that you and other clinicians have the most up-to-date information possible, we've convened an Ohio E-Prescribing Task Force to work with national entities, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy, and state licensing boards to disseminate information on e-prescribing of controlled substances (EPCS). Ohio is involved with this national initiative to encourage EPCS along with leaders such as Surescripts, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

What steps do providers in Ohio need to take to be able to e-prescribe controlled substances?

Just 3
steps
to
EPCS!

Verify EHR vendor is EPCS certified

Visit the link below or contact your EHR vendor directly:

Step

1

<http://surescripts.com/network-connections/mns/prescriber-software>

Certification means your EHR vendor has an additional level of security for this type of e-prescribing using dual authentication, which may include something you have (a hard token or smartcard), something you know (a password), or something you are (a biometric fingerprint reader).

Check to see if pharmacies nearby you are certified to receive EPCS

Visit the link below:

Step

2

<http://getepcs.com/moredetails.htm>

Pharmacies receive their own certification so that their systems can receive EPCS with increased security provisions. In fact, 81.6% of Ohio's pharmacies are certified to receive EPCS.

Ensure you are credentialed through the DEA approved process

Identity proofing is critical to the security of electronic prescribing of controlled substances. Authentication credentials used to sign controlled substance prescriptions may be issued only to individuals whose identity has been confirmed. A prescriber can apply to any DEA-approved credential service providers (CSPs), or certification authorities (CAs), to obtain their two-factor authentication credential or digital certificate. Be sure to contact your vendor for recommendations on a CSP or CA that can verify your identity:

Step

3

<http://surescripts.com/network-connections/mns/prescriber-software>

Questions and Answers:

Question 1: What does the law say about EPCS?

The process for approval of electronic health record (EHR) systems to send and pharmacy systems to receive controlled substance e-prescriptions has been established by DEA regulations (**21 CFR 1311**). Pursuant to **4729-5-21 and 4729-5-30 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC)**, systems meeting the DEA's requirements to send and receive electronic prescriptions for both controlled and non-controlled substances are considered approved by the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy.

Question 2: Can controlled substance prescriptions be received in Ohio by a means other than EPCS?

Pharmacists can continue to receive controlled substance prescriptions by other State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy approved routes such as signed hardcopy prescriptions and facsimile. However, under the DEA regulations, an EPCS prescription cannot be converted into a computer-generated fax.

Question 3: Can Schedule II drugs be e-prescribed using the EPCS process?

Yes, all controlled substances – Schedule II through V – are permitted to be electronically prescribed in Ohio.

Question 4: In which states have EPCS transactions been transmitted and received via the Surescripts network since August 2011? Are Ohio pharmacies participating in EPCS?

All states except Missouri, which just recently adopted a law to allow EPCS. As of April 2015, 1,681 out of 2,164 Ohio pharmacies can receive EPCS – 78% of the state's pharmacies. As of May, the percentage of pharmacies enabled to accept EPCS rose to 81.6%.

Question 5: How do I know what form of dual authentication to use? What if I'm using one EHR system for my office and a different one at the hospital?

The form of dual authentication must be something that will work with your EHR system, so talk to your vendor. If there is a different EHR system at another location where you practice, whether you can use the same credentials at that second institution depends on the institution and whether the same DEA number is used at each location. Many organizations will want to maintain separate credentials within their system.

Question 6: Is Surescripts doing anything to facilitate the EPCS process that's not required by the DEA?

Yes, visit www.getepcs.com to watch a video on more information about the EPCS process.

Question 7: Can I e-prescribe a controlled substance from Ohio, to a pharmacy in another state?

It depends. Laws differ by state. EPCS is legal in 49 out of 50 states, however, pharmacy enablement rate as well as state Board of Pharmacy requirements may vary.

Question 8: What certification does my EHR vendor need to have in Ohio for e-prescribing?

CMS certification (required for Meaningful Use) by itself is not sufficient to allow you to send a controlled substance prescription electronically. Your EHR software vendor must have received the additional certification required by the DEA. In addition, any software that is used to transmit both controlled substance and non-controlled substance prescriptions electronically must also meet the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy's requirements for positive identification and be "approvable" by the Board of Pharmacy. For more information on this, your vendor may contact the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy via email (erx@pharmacy.ohio.gov) if the vendor is not already on the Board's approved list.

To check if your vendor is on the approved list, visit:

<http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Pubs/EPTS.aspx>