

Dear Prescriber/Pharmacist,

This is a courtesy communication to inform you of an upcoming federal requirement that will impact all controlled substance prescriptions to be reimbursed under Medicare Part D pursuant to the SUPPORT Act, otherwise known as the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act.

Beginning January 1, 2021 the SUPPORT Act will require that any controlled substance prescription, to be reimbursed under Medicare Part D, be electronically prescribed.

The Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances (EPCS), including controlled substance Schedules II – V, is legal in New Mexico. New Mexico's pharmacies are almost universally enabled for EPCS, meaning that their electronic systems have the appropriate technical updates required by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to receive EPCS; however, only approximately 25% of New Mexico prescribers are enabled.

EPCS is an important element in improving the safety and quality of patient care, and can serve to protect patients and practitioners via reduction of medication errors, prescription forgery, and controlled substance diversion.

- EPCS limits [medication errors](#), including transcription errors. EPCS can reduce the number of callbacks between pharmacies and prescribers for prescription clarification, as in the case of legibility issues.
- EPCS limits forged and fraudulent prescriptions associated with other methods of transmission (e.g. written or telephoned prescriptions).
- EPCS provides a single, streamlined workflow for all prescriptions, and enables after hours ordering. Prescribers can electronically prescribe from anywhere they can access their electronic health record (EHR) system.

There are four fundamental steps to enabling EPCS.

1. Find out if your EHR has EPCS.
2. Establish identity proofing for prescribers.
3. Enable two-factor authentication.
4. Set software access for EPCS.

If you are interested in starting the process, here are some resources:

- [DEA Diversion Control Division Information on EPCS](#)
- [EPCS FAQ for practitioners](#)

Please note that this communication applies to all prescribers of controlled substances.

Thank you,

New Mexico Board of Pharmacy
New Mexico Board of Nursing
New Mexico Medical Board