



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
Drug Control Unit
124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark NJ 07102-3017



JOHN J. HOFFMAN
Acting Attorney General

STEVE C. LEE
Acting Director

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 45045
Newark, NJ 07101
(973) 504-6351

Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances (EPCS) For a Prescriber

Background

In 2010, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) approved federal rules to allow for the electronic prescribing of controlled substances (EPCS). In accordance with federal and state rules, **New Jersey practitioners and pharmacies can utilize EPCS for all patient prescriptions.**

Benefits of EPCS

- Single, streamlined workflow for all prescriptions, both controlled dangerous substances (CDS) and prescription legend drugs (PLD)
- Quickly select, transmit and refill patient prescriptions
- Reduce prescription fraud, forgery, and abuse
- Decrease adverse drug events
- Condense recordkeeping for a patient's prescription history
- Improved legibility

Requirements to use EPCS

Both the prescriber and pharmacy must each be EPCS certified.

How to Begin Using EPCS

Prescribers

1. Contact your Electronic Health Records (EHR) or E-prescribing vendor and ask if your vendor is certified for EPCS;
2. If your vendor is certified for EPCS:
 - a. Ask for and obtain a copy of your vendor's EPCS certification or third-party audit;
 - b. Complete an identity verification process (required by DEA rules);
 - c. Set your access controls (your EHR vendor will assist);
 - d. Obtain a two-factor authentication device or process (i.e. digital token or biometrics);
 - e. Adhere to the digital signature and two-factor authentication process when prescribing controlled substances.

OR

3. If your vendor is not certified for EPCS, your vendor will have to undergo a third-party audit or certification process as defined by the DEA rules.

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Additional Information

For details about the DEA rules for EPCS, please visit the DEA website:

www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/ecomms/e_rx/index.html

Additional information about EPCS is available from various healthcare information networks – companies that connect practitioners, pharmacies, benefit plan managers and technology partners, to facilitate the processing of prescriptions and health information nationwide. Prescribers may obtain additional information by visiting network websites such as www.surescripts.com, www.getepcs.com, or www.emdeon.com/eprescribing

To search whether a practitioner or pharmacy in your area is EPCS enabled, click on the “Find E-Prescribing Physicians” or “Find E-Prescribing Pharmacies” at the top of the Surescripts website.