

# Ensure Proper Handling of E-Rxs for Controlled Substances

You'll see **more controlled substance Rxs sent via electronic prescribing**...in an effort to prevent fraud, diversion, abuse, etc.

New laws mandating e-Rxs for controls take effect Jan 1 for AZ, FL, IA, NC, OK, and RI. Six states already require it...more will follow.

And a federal law will require e-prescribing for controlled meds billed to Medicare Part D starting in 2021.

But fewer than half of prescribers are set up to send e-Rxs for controls...even though nearly all pharmacies can accept them.

Ensure your team handles controlled e-Rxs properly...and follow your state laws and pharmacy policies.

Remind your techs to watch for multiple transmittals of an e-Rx...and to check sigs, notes, and dates for when to fill each one. A prescriber may send separate e-Rxs to be filled sequentially.

Keep in mind that controlled substance e-Rxs must contain the same info required on written Rxs...patient's address, DEA number, etc.

Feel comfortable printing out a hard copy of an e-Rx as a record if needed...but ensure it's labeled as a copy not valid for dispensing.

If there's a transmission failure, the prescriber may print and manually sign the e-Rx...and this hard copy will note the pharmacy it was originally sent to. Call to confirm it wasn't received or dispensed.

Handle any changes to a controlled e-Rx similarly to paper Rxs.

For example, you may be able to clarify certain info (sig, etc) with the prescriber...and note the change electronically. But the prescriber may need to send a new e-Rx to change the patient, drug name, etc.

Stay alert for meds prone to e-Rx errors. For example, e-Rx pick lists can lead to product selection mishaps with methylphenidate forms...depending on how the suffixes (CD, ER, etc) are displayed.

Get our CE, *The Federal Controlled Substances Act*, for guidance on partial fills, recordkeeping, transfers, etc...and use our chart, *Strategies for Avoiding E-Prescribing Errors*, to improve e-Rx safety.

## Key References:

-[www.dea.gov/diversion.usdoj.gov/pubs/manuals/pharm2/pharm\\_manual.htm](http://www.dea.gov/diversion/usdoj.gov/pubs/manuals/pharm2/pharm_manual.htm) (12-12-19)

-[www.dea.gov/diversion.usdoj.gov/ecommm/e\\_rx/faq/faq.htm](http://www.dea.gov/diversion.usdoj.gov/ecommm/e_rx/faq/faq.htm) (12-12-19)

-[www.dea.gov/diversion.usdoj.gov/fed\\_regs/rules/2010/fr0331.pdf](http://www.dea.gov/diversion.usdoj.gov/fed_regs/rules/2010/fr0331.pdf) (12-12-19)

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