e-Prescribing Controlled Substances

Ask the Expert Series

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• Electronic prescribing of controlled substances (EPCS) is the electronic transmission of a controlled substance to a pharmacy.

• Effective Jan. 1, 2021, Texas physicians are required to electronically prescribe all controlled substances.
  • House Bill 2174 (2019)
  • Schedules II-V
  • Unless an exception applies or waiver granted
These exceptions do not require a waiver:

• Can submit electronically but reasonably determines it is impractical for the patient to obtain the prescription in a timely manner and adversely impacts the patient’s medical condition

• Electronic prescribing not available due to temporary technical or electronic failure

• When the prescriber and dispenser are in the same location or under the same license

• Circumstances in which necessary elements are not supported by the most recently implemented national data standard that facilitates electronic prescribing
EPCS Exceptions (cont’d)

• By a practitioner to be dispensed by a pharmacy located outside this state

• For a drug for which the U.S. Food and Drug Administration requires additional information in the prescription that is not possible with EPCS

• For a drug under a research protocol

• For a non-patient-specific prescription pursuant to a standing order, approved protocol for drug therapy, collaborative drug management, or comprehensive medication management, in response to a public health emergency or in other circumstances in which the practitioner may issue a non-patient-specific prescription
EPCS Waivers

Physicians eligible for an EPCS waiver must submit a request to the Texas Medical Board. Physicians must demonstrate one of the following:

- Economic hardship
  - Any special factors affecting either the cost of compliance or ability to comply
  - The likely impact of compliance on profitability or viability
  - The availability of measures that would mitigate the economic impact of compliance

- Technological limitation not reasonably within the control of the physician

- Other exceptional circumstances, which allows the physician an opportunity to show why he or she cannot comply with the requirement
EPCS Waivers (cont’d)

• Waivers must be requested per physician, not entity.
• The physician’s waiver covers the physician’s delegate.
• Pharmacists are not required to verify the physician’s waiver.
• Once approved, waiver is for one year.

From Texas State Board of Pharmacy website
https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/

★ REMINDER: E-Prescribing Required Beginning January 1, 2021

House Bill 2174, 86th Texas Legislature, required that mandatory electronic controlled substances (Schedules II through V) prescribing begin January 1, 2021. Some key highlights for pharmacy professionals regarding this requirement are as follows:

- The pharmacist is not responsible for ensuring there is a waiver. In addition, there is no requirement of the pharmacist to ensure an appropriate waiver is granted.
- If the prescription is otherwise valid, the pharmacist can dispense the prescription. A pharmacist may dispense a controlled substance pursuant to an otherwise valid written, oral, or telephonically communicated prescription consistent with the requirements of the Texas Controlled Substances Act.
- TSBP does not have the authority to grant or deny waivers. Waivers are granted by the prescriber’s own licensing agency.
EPCS Vendors

• Your electronic health record (EHR) vendor likely has EPCS available.
  • Expect an additional fee
  • Requires two-factor authentication

• If you do not use an EHR, you may choose a standalone EPCS platform.
  • Expect to pay about $75 per month/per physician
  • Check the Surescripts certified prescriber software page: https://surescripts.com/network-alliance/eprescribing-prescriber-software/
  • Focus your search by choosing standalone eRX
## SOFTWARE TYPE
- Standalone eRx
- EHR

See all Software Types

## CAPABILITIES
- NewRx
- LTPAC
- RefillRx
- RxChange
- EPCS
- CancelRx
- Medication History
- Eligibility/Formulary

### Certified for this service and actively available

### Additional information about this product's certification status is available

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Thank You

Questions?

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