

# Managing the Regulatory Environment

## ADA's Guidelines for Practice Success™ (GPS™)

### ADA Tip Sheet for E-Prescribing Controlled Substances

Consider using e-prescribing software, even if it's not already mandated in your state, since it's a more efficient and safe method of prescribing all drugs. Make sure you check with your state agency that regulates pharmacies to confirm that e-prescriptions are allowed and to determine whether any additional local regulations apply. Additional information is available in the American Dental Association's (ADA) Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI) [White Paper No. 1070-2016 ADA Electronic Pharmaceutical Prescription Standard for Dentistry](#).

#### E-prescribing:

- protects the safety of patients by ensuring that:
  - prescriptions are written for the correct patient
  - prescriptions detail the correct drug and the correct dosage
  - information on any allergies, possible drug interactions or duplicate therapies are immediately available
  - there's no need to decipher handwriting that might be difficult to read
  - prevents drug diversion and/or abuse by both patients and staff since blank prescription pads aren't necessary and can't be forged or otherwise altered
- ensures compliance with electronic health records (EHR) and the meaningful use requirement that practices must satisfy in order to qualify for meaningful use subsidies through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service's (CMS) [Electronic Health Records \(EHR\) Incentive Program](#).
- enables efficiency between providers by:
  - making refill authorizations easier to process since formulary information and status are readily available for the prescribing physician
  - making it easier for doctors to access patients' medical information and write prescriptions from any location where an internet connection is available
  - ensuring that prescribing physicians have access to current prescription filled status on each patient

E-prescribing controlled substances is allowed if the software used meets DEA requirements, which are detailed in the agency's webpage on [Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances \(EPCS\)](#). Some of the topics discussed there include:

- When practitioners can begin issuing electronic prescriptions for controlled substances
- How to determine if an application complies with DEA rules
- Whether identity proofing of individual prescribing practitioners is required and, if so, who conducts it and how it's accomplished
- Using biometrics to satisfy one of the two-factor authentication credentials required
- What information must be included on e-prescriptions for controlled substances
- How to sign an e-prescription
- How quickly e-prescriptions for controlled substances must be transmitted to a pharmacy

#### Resources:

SCDI [White Paper No. 1070-2016 ADA Electronic Pharmaceutical Prescription Standard for Dentistry](#)  
 CMS [Electronic Health Records \(EHR\) Incentive Program](#)  
 DEA [Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances \(EPCS\)](#)

Reproduction of this material by dentists and their staff is permitted, provided that any reproduction must include the ADA copyright notice. Any other use, duplication or distribution by any other party requires the prior written approval of the American Dental Association. **This material is for general reference purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Dentists should contact qualified legal counsel for legal advice, including advice pertaining to compliance with the regulation(s) discussed in the content of this resource.** © 2017 American Dental Association. All Rights Reserved.