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DID YOU KNOW?

- Matrix and PointClickCare have eMAR/EHR solutions for Electronic Prescribing for Controlled Substances (EPCS)

- Absolute Pharmacy has many customers integrated with EPCS

NOTE: Consistent with Section 2003 of the SUPPORT Act, there is no requirement for Part D sponsors or pharmacists to verify that a prescriber has a waiver (or is otherwise exempt) from CMS EPCS requirements before covering or dispensing a Part D drug. The CMS EPCS requirement does not affect the ability of the Part D plan to cover or the pharmacists' ability to continue to dispense covered Part D drugs from otherwise valid written, oral, or fax prescriptions that are consistent with laws and regulations.

The SUPPORT Act and Electronic Prescribing for Controlled Substances

Written by Brandi Clouston, Integration and Program Director

The Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT Act) was enacted in 2018. The legislation mandates that in 2023 prescribers are to use Electronic Prescribing for Controlled Substances (EPCS) to communicate 70% of controlled substance prescriptions for patients with Medicare Part D. The below F.A.Q. may help with understanding the SUPPORT Act mandate and what EPCS entails.

What is the definition of Electronic Prescribing for Controlled Substances (EPCS)?
EPCS refers to the technical solution that allows the prescriber to electronically transmit a controlled substance prescription directly to absolute pharmacy.

What is the SUPPORT Act and how does it impact controlled substance prescribing?
According to cms.gov, "Section 2003 of the SUPPORT Act mandates that the prescribing of a Schedule II, III, IV, or V controlled substance under Medicare Part D prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage prescription drug (MA-PD) plans be done electronically in accordance with an electronic prescription drug program. The first measurement year for compliance with the requirements of the EPCS Program begins January 1, 2023 and ends December 31, 2023".

What are the important dates regarding the SUPPORT Act Mandate?
The below dates can be found at https://www.cms.gov/medicare/e-health/ePrescribing

- November 18, 2022 – Calendar Year 2023 Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule released
- January 1, 2023 – Compliance start date for 2023 measurement year
- December 31, 2023 – Compliance end date for 2023 measurement year
- Summer 2024 – CMS analysis of Part D Prescription Claims Data for 2023 measurement year begins after Medicare Part D reconciliation period
- Summer/Fall 2024 – Non-compliance notices sent and EPCS compliance available via an EPCS Dashboard
- Summer/Fall 2024 – EPCS waiver application period open for 2023 measurement year
- Late 2024 – Prescriber notification of waiver approval or denial for 2023 measurement year

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What are the benefits of EPCS?

There are so many advantages to using EPCS which include:

- ·Enhanced Patient Safety
- ·Workflow Efficiencies/Reduced Wait Time
- ·Reduced Burden on the Nursing Staff
- ·Medication Adherence
- ·Fraud Deterrence/Diversion Reduction
- ·No Faxing/Reliable Transmission of Prescriptions

Are there eMAR/EHR solutions to EPCS?

Yes, MatrixCare and PointClickCare currently have EPCS modules available for purchase NOW! Absolute Pharmacy has many integrated customers successfully using EPCS with these two popular applications.

Are there non eMAR/EHR solutions for EPCS?

SureScripts offers an EPCS solution directly to prescribers. Absolute Pharmacy is currently integrated with SureScripts and receives electronically signed controlled substances daily from the ePrescribing software. For more information regarding SureScripts go to https://surescripts.com/.

Will 2FA be needed for EPCS and what is it?

Yes, 2FA will be required for prescribing controlled substances. You will be required to validate two of three of the following factors:

1. Something you know, like a username and password
2. Something you have, like a token (such as a onetime password device)
3. Something you are, like a biometric identifier

Every EPCS solution will have different two factor authentication solutions but knowing it will be needed will help with preparation and user engagement.

For more information or questions, please contact your Account Manager.

About the Author

Outside of work Brandi likes to explore Columbus, cook, hang out with her family, and lobby for binge watching shows to be become an Olympic sport because she would medal.

Brandi Clouston is the Integration and Program Director for Absolute Pharmacy and has been with us for over 21 years! She began her career with Absolute working with the production team, then moved on to customer service, data entry and billing. She has literally learned every aspect of pharmacy operation! Combined with this knowledge and her technical skills, Brandi now leads all pharmacy integrations and has been certified as a PCC super user! Her interoperability expertise has contributed to successful onboarding of new clients and seamless EHR conversions for existing customers. Brandi is extremely dedicated and gives 110% to any project she takes on! Some of her favorite things include the color black and her 2 Boston Terriers, Pancake and Waffles.

What is the shortest month?

May, it only has 3 letters.

I just bought some potting soil on sale.

It was dirt cheap.

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