



REMINDER: Electronic Prescribing Mandate

The implementation date for mandatory electronic prescribing has been extended to **March 27, 2016**. Information regarding requirements can be found at https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/electronic_prescribing/.

Although the effective date of mandated electronic prescribing has been extended, e-prescribing of both controlled and non-controlled substances is currently permissible in New York. Practitioners must continue their efforts to become compliant with the requirement, including working with their software vendors to implement the additional security requirements needed for e-prescribing of controlled substances, and registering their certified software applications with the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement.

Below are highlights/key points that may be of particular interest to prescribers and pharmacists.

- A prescription generated on an electronic system that is printed out to the Official New York State Prescription form or faxed is **NOT** an electronic prescription.
- Amendments to Title 10 NYCRR Part 80 Rules and Regulations on Controlled Substances have been adopted and became effective as final regulations on March 27, 2013. The amendments authorize a practitioner to issue an electronic prescription for controlled substances in Schedules II through V and allow a pharmacist to accept, annotate, dispense and electronically archive such prescriptions.

A comprehensive list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) can be found at https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/electronic_prescribing/docs/epcs_faqs.pdf.

Sample questions include:

1. Does an electronic prescription for a controlled substance require a follow-up hard copy prescription? See Question 16 of FAQs.
2. Is it mandatory for pharmacies to receive electronic prescriptions for controlled substances? See Question 17 of FAQs.
3. Is the prescription valid for dispensing if the practitioner has not registered their certified Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances (EPCS) application with BNE? See Question 26 of FAQs.
4. Is a pharmacist who is presented with a prescription issued on an Official New York State Prescription form after March 27, 2015 required to verify that the practitioner properly falls under one of the exceptions from the requirement to electronically prescribe? See Question 30 of FAQs.

The FAQs provide an explanation of the laws and regulations, pharmacy registration forms, registration for official prescriptions and e-prescribing systems (ROPES), software and data requirements, waivers and exceptions, and resource information and contacts.

Questions? Please contact the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement at 1-866-811-7957 or via e-mail to narcotic@health.ny.gov