



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

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Dear Prescriber:

Effective March 27, 2016, electronic prescribing for both controlled and non-controlled substances will be required in New York State. This mandate does not apply to veterinarians. Electronic prescribing of both controlled and non-controlled substances is currently permissible in New York.

In order to process electronic prescriptions for controlled substances (EPCS), a prescriber must select and use a certified electronic prescribing computer application that meets all federal requirements. **Each unique certified computer application used to electronically prescribe controlled substances must first be registered by the practitioner** with the New York State Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE).

Please be aware that implementation timelines for EPCS software vary and may be lengthy. If you have not already begun this process, BNE strongly recommends that you begin immediately.

Prescribers who have certified EPCS software and have completed the registration process are highly encouraged to begin electronically prescribing instead of using paper, to allow for time to resolve technical or workflow issues prior to the mandate's effective date.

Useful information related to electronic prescribing, including frequently asked questions, information regarding the EPCS registration process, and a downloadable patient-centered brochure to help your patients better understand electronic prescribing can be found on our website at www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic.

If you have any questions about the electronic prescribing mandate, please call 1-866-811-7957, option 1.

Sincerely,

Joshua Vinciguerra
Director
Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement