

e-Prescribing Controlled Substances

Ask the Expert Series

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ePrescribing of Controlled Substances

- 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



EPCS Exceptions

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

Enter Vendor or Product Name

Search

Focus your search ^

SOFTWARE TYPE

• Standalone eRx

EHR

See all Software Types

CAPABILITIES

NewRx

LTPAC

Medication History

RefillRx

RxChange

Eligibility/Formulary

EPCS

CancelRx









































See all Capabilities



Certified for this service and actively available



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

Company Name	Software Application Name & Version	 NewRx	 RefillRx	 EPCS	 LTPAC	 RxChange	 CancelRx	 Medication History	 Eligibility/Formulary
Allscripts 800.334.8534	ePrescribe Standalone / 2015.2.2								
DAW Systems 866.755.1500	ScriptSure / 10								
DrFirst 888.271.9898	IPrescribe/ Rcopla Mobile / 3.27								
MD Toolbox 206.331.4420	MD Toolbox-Rx / 3.1								
RXNT 800.943.7968	RXNT eRx / 1.0								



Helpful Links

Resource

Access

TMA e-Prescribing	www.texmed.org/eRx
TMB EPCS Page	www.tmb.state.tx.us/page/renewals-physician-electronic-prescribing-wavier
Surescripts EPCS Certified vendors	https://surescripts.com/network-alliance/eprescribing-prescriber-software/

Thank You

Questions?

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