E-prescribing Requirement Effective March 27, 2015

E-prescribing will be required for all New York State prescriptions effective March 27, 2015, pursuant to regulations adopted by New York State. While the E-prescribing mandate goes into effect on March 27, 2015, physicians who comply with these regulations may now begin to electronically prescribe controlled substances (EPCS), as long as their EPCS systems are DEA certified. You must call NYS Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) at 1(866) 811-7957 so that they can verify that the software you use has been DEA certified. Transmission of a prescription of a controlled substance using software that is not DEA certified will fail. The prescription will not be filled. You should know that very few E-prescribing vendors have been certified by the DEA. Included on the list of certified EPCS systems are the following: Allscripts, Cerner Corporation, DrFirst, Epic, Glenwood Systems, MD Toolbox, NewCrop, NextGen, and RxNT Stratus EMR. (As of May 2013).

A waiver process has been established under regulations from the E-prescribing mandate. A copy of the adopted regulations, including the limited exceptions and the waiver process to the E-prescribing requirement, can be found here. Click on the E-Prescribing regulations.

Additionally, a separate set of regulations were adopted that modify the official NYS prescription form to include a section or check box that will indicate limited English proficiency, at no additional cost. A line is a provided on these forms to allow for the specification of the preferred language. Completion of this box however, is not mandatory. These changes were necessitated by the passage of the I-STOP law. The regulations also include provisions to allow physicians to use and amend their current stock of prescription forms until such time as they order new prescription forms. Failure to do so will not invalidate the prescription. This regulation went into effect on March 31, 2013 and can also be found at the health department link above.

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