

The National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities

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NASCSA Resolution 2005-05
October 2005

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

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NASCSA RESOLUTION

A Resolution Recommending that the States Implement Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances

WHEREAS, electronic prescribing is a secure and cost effective method of delivering prescriptions from practitioners to pharmacies via computer transmission.

WHEREAS, electronic prescribing enhances patient safety by applying ‘Clinical Decision Support’; the computer can check each electronic prescription for dosage errors, conflicts with patient allergies, and adverse interactions with other medications.

WHEREAS, electronic prescribing minimizes medication errors due to misinterpretations of practitioners’ instructions on handwritten prescriptions

WHEREAS, electronic prescribing curtails diversion of controlled substances through prescription fraud, due to the fact that a paper prescription is not required and therefore cannot be physically altered by an individual attempting to obtain controlled substances illegally. (It is estimated that 15% to 20% of all paper prescriptions are fraudulent.)

WHEREAS, electronic prescribing affords more efficient use of prescribing and dispensing by practitioners and pharmacists, who expend valuable hours in clarifying illegible prescription and unclear oral prescriptions.

WHEREAS, electronically communicating prescriptions directly to the pharmacy lessens patient waiting time, both in the pharmacy and the practitioner’s office.

WHEREAS, the federal government is advocating and promoting Health Information Technology (HIT), of which electronic prescribing is a major component.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of Controlled Substance Authorities recommends that the States encourage and support the implementation of electronic prescribing of controlled substances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the States should promulgate state regulations authorizing the electronic prescribing of controlled substances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NASCSA should, as a body, encourage the States to take the lead in implementing electronic prescribing of controlled substances.