



National Association of State
Controlled Substances Authorities

NASCSA Resolution 2015-05
October 2015
Scottsdale, Arizona

A Resolution Advocating State Controlled Substance Authorities, Boards of Pharmacy, and Public Policymakers to Encourage Implementation of the Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances

WHEREAS, prescription drug abuse has grown to epidemic proportions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the prescription drug abuse epidemic has led to an increase in unintentional drug overdose death rates in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the diversion and theft of prescription pads, the increase use of serialized tamper resistant prescriptions by individual states, the requirement for use of secure paper for prescriptions generated by a computer, the acts of diversion in the alteration of an issued controlled substance prescription or the blatant attempt to create and forge prescriptions for controlled substances; and

WHEREAS, Electronic prescribing (E-prescribing) of controlled substances will ensure that controlled substance transactions are transmitted in a secure, encrypted fashion to their intended recipient; and

WHEREAS, in addition, electronic prescribing enhances patient care by minimizing medication errors due to misinterpretations of handwriting on written prescriptions. It is estimated that twenty percent of the approximately seven thousand annual deaths caused by medication errors are attributable to misinterpretations of written prescriptions. Further, medication errors are estimated to cost the nation's health care system over seventy billion dollars each year; and

WHEREAS, e-prescribing will improve the efficiency of authorized practitioners, pharmacists and pharmacies in the transmission and processing of prescriptions. Approximately thirty percent of prescriptions require pharmacists to call physicians due to poor handwriting on prescription forms. Additionally, e-prescribing is also more convenient for consumers, who would otherwise need to either wait at the pharmacy for a prescription to be filled, or make separate trips to drop off the prescription form and then pick up the medication;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA) advocate for state controlled substance authorities, state boards of pharmacy, and state

medical licensing boards to collaborate with state public policymakers in submitting and passing legislation requiring that the prescribing of controlled substances prescriptions for individual patients by e-prescribing be in compliance with the Drug Enforcement Administration 21 C.F.R 1311; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NASCSA encourage other national stakeholders and public policymakers to advocate for the mandating of e-prescribing of controlled substance prescriptions as the only acceptable methodology in the issuance and transmission of a prescription for an individual patient.



ATTEST: _____
President

DATE: October 23, 2015