Increasing E-Prescribing and Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances (EPCS) in Arizona

August 2017

Arizona Health-e Connection is now Health Current

- Health Current is the Health Information Exchange (HIE) in Arizona

- We integrate information with the delivery of care to improve individual and community health and wellbeing

- We have the most complete health record possible

Health Current has data on approximately **95%** of all inpatient discharges from hospitals throughout Arizona

This webinar is provided through a shared commitment between Health Current and Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) to improve e-prescribing rates across Arizona.

Overview

- Overview of E-Prescribing and EPCS
- Arizona vs National Landscape
- Benefits of E-Prescribing
- Common Barriers and Ways to Overcome
- Readiness of EHR Systems
- How to Get Started
- Tips to Using E-Prescribing and EPCS
- Potential Costs of Not E-Prescribing
- Closing Remarks
- Health Current is a Resource

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Please use the "chat" feature to submit questions

What is E-Prescribing?

Electronic Prescribing (e-prescribing) occurs when a prescriber uses a computer or handheld device with software that enables the prescriber to:

- Electronically route the prescription to the patient's pharmacy of choice

- Electronically access a patient's prescription benefit (formulary)

- Electronically access a patient's medication history

E-Prescribing is also known as **eRx**

What is EPCS?

EPCS is the Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances

- Regulations issued by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in 2010 permits **prescribers to enter and send prescriptions electronically** to pharmacies and enables pharmacies to receive, dispense and archive electronic prescriptions

- In April 2012, Arizona's governor signed into law legislation making EPCS legal in Arizona

How Does Arizona Compare for Electronic Prescribing?

National vs Arizona for E-Prescribing

	National	Arizona
Pharmacies E-Prescribing Enabled	98%	99%
Active E-Prescribers	66%	58%

National vs Arizona for EPCS

	National	Arizona
Pharmacies EPCS Enabled	91%	96%
Prescribers Enabled	17.1%	8.5%

Virtually All Arizona Pharmacies Enabled

Arizona prescribers lag behind national numbers

Surescripts June 2017 Data

Why E-Prescribe?
Improve patient care

E-prescribing is a recognized and proven effective tool to improve patients' health outcomes and reduce costs

- Eliminates phone calls and inaccuracies

- Decreases adverse drug events and drug-to-drug interactions

- Increases patient adherence

Electronic prescribing improves patient first-fill medication adherence rates by **10%**.

This seemingly small increase in fill rate helps greatly reduce hospital readmissions and improve patient care.

Why E-Prescribe?
Majority of adults prefer electronic prescriptions

Older Adult's Perceptions of E-Prescribing: Impact on Patient Care – Schleiden, et al.

> **"When I get there [the pharmacy] it's ready. Otherwise I have to sit there and wait or come back."**

> **"I don't have to worry about losing the paper, and to me, it's faster."**

- 68.4 percent believed that e-prescribing had improved care they received.

- 17.5% reported being more likely to pick up e-prescriptions.

- Nearly all were satisfied with their prescriber and pharmacy & the convenience of e-prescribing has made it their preferred method of delivery.

Why E-Prescribe?

Majority of adults prefer electronic prescriptions

Consumer Opinions of Health Information Exchange, e-Prescribing, and Personal Health Records – Cochron, et al.

"As someone who calls in prescriptions rather frequently, having it in an electronic form it would save my time."

"I don't live in the same town as my doctor so being able to save that time-wise . . . [and] just to have it right away would be really nice."

- This study demonstrated that though patients are concerned with drug costs, they see definite benefits of convenience and safety in e-prescribing.
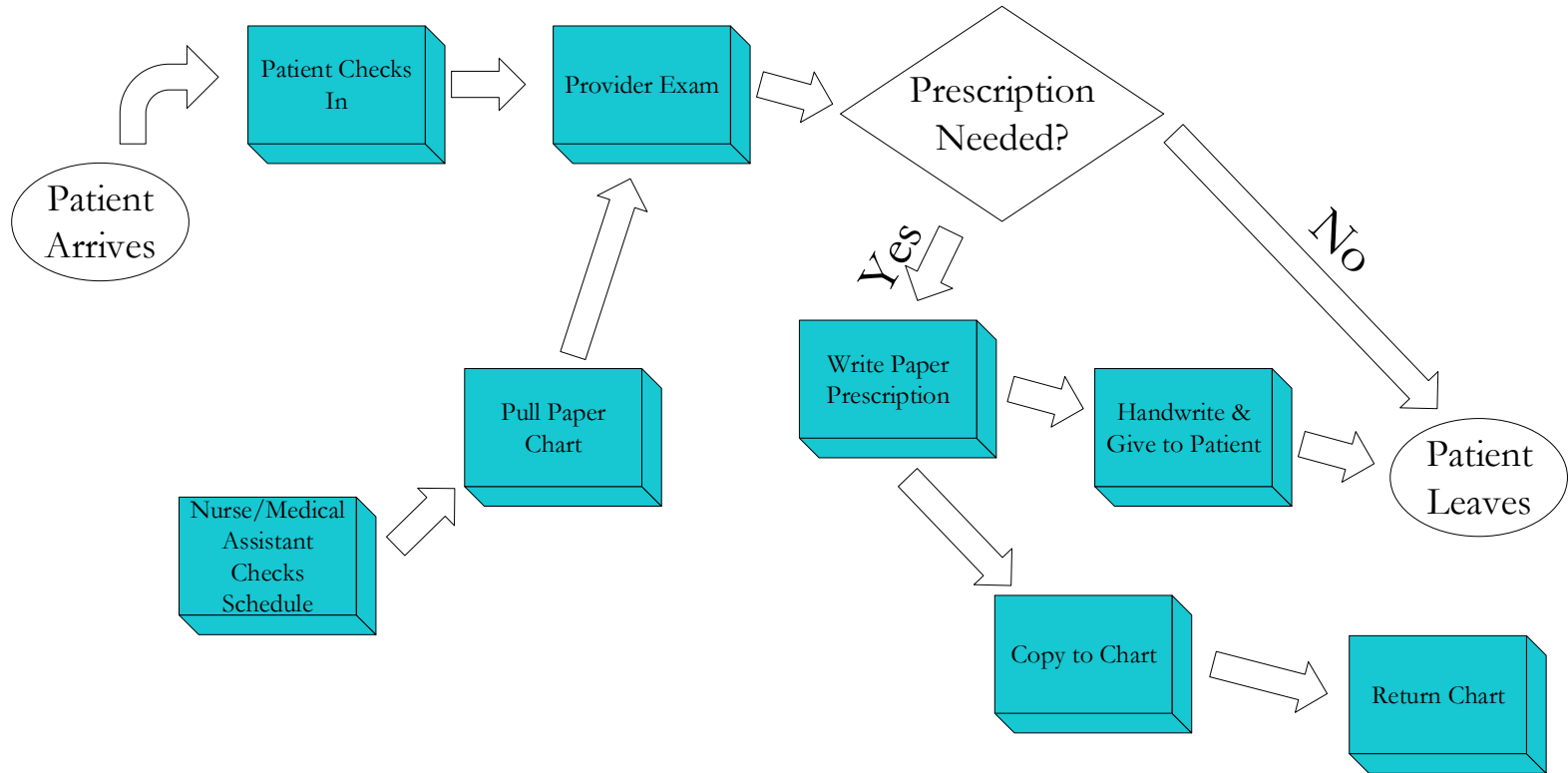
Why E-Prescribe?
Meaningful Use & VBP

- Meeting Meaningful Use requirements

  - Medicaid EHR Modified Stage 2 Objective 4: Electronic Prescribing (eRX)

    - Objective: Generate and transmit permissible prescriptions electronically (eRX)

    - Measure: More than 50% of all permissible prescriptions written by the electronic prescriber (EP) are compared to at least one drug formulary and transmitted electronically using Certified EHR Technology

- Potentially receiving a higher reimbursement rate under AHCCCS' Value Based Purchasing program

Why E-Prescribe?

Typical workflow for **new** paper prescriptions

Patient Arrives → Patient Checks In → Provider Exam → Prescription Needed? → Yes → Write Paper Prescription → Handwrite & Give to Patient → Patient Leaves; No → Patient Leaves

Nurse/Medical Assistant Checks Schedule → Pull Paper Chart → Provider Exam

Write Paper Prescription → Copy to Chart → Return Chart

Why E-Prescribe?
Simplified workflow for **new** prescriptions using e-prescribing

Common Barriers to E-Prescribing & EPCS

Barrier	How to Overcome
Believe EPCS is NOT legal	EPCS has been legal in Arizona since 2012 and 96% of pharmacies in Arizona can accept a controlled prescription electronically
Time Consuming	A small investment in time, in the beginning, pays off in increased efficiency in the long run. **Time savings**: favorite drug lists can be created to make prescribing easier and faster; fits into your EHR workflow; reduction in transcription errors; access to patient formulary while prescribing

Common Barriers to E-Prescribing & EPCS

Barrier	How to Overcome
Not able to adjust dosing instructions as desired	"Free Form" options are available through some EHR/EMRs
Concern about the security of electronic prescriptions	Electronic prescriptions are sent through certified technology that uses private, secure, and closed networks. Electronic prescription information is NOT sent over of the open internet or as an email.

Electronic Health Record (EHR) Systems are ready
Top EHR systems used in Arizona are eRx and EPCS capable

- ✓ Amazing Charts
- ✓ Athena
- ✓ Cerner
- ✓ eClinicalWorks
- ✓ eMDs
- ✓ EPIC

- ✓ GE Centricity
- ✓ Greenway
- ✓ McKesson
- ✓ NextGen
- ✓ Practice Fusion

Search the web address below to check the status of EPCS of your EHR:
www.surescripts.com/network-connections/mns/prescriber-software

How to Get Started E-Prescribing

- All certified EHR systems have e-prescribing capabilities

- Contact your vendor for training if your office is not currently utilizing

- Make sure to be using the most current version of your software

The pharmacies & patients are ready for you to send electronic prescriptions

How to Get Started: EPCS

- Notify your vendor that your prescribers are ready to begin using EPCS
- Complete identity proofing requirements
- Obtain dual (two-factor) authentication device or process
- Set up security access controls

Our research found:

- Average yearly costs for EPCS range from $100 to $250 per provider
- Monthly fees may also apply and typically range from $7.50 to $15 per provider

Tips to Using E-Prescribing and EPCS

- Make certain to send your prescriptions immediately, and do not batch or put them into a cue (this causes a delay of the prescription getting to the pharmacy)

- Train all members of your care team in the features of your software to streamline workflow

- Designate both an EHR/EMR and e-prescribing expert in your office

Tips to Using E-Prescribing and EPCS

- Educate your patients on the benefits of e-prescribing for them
  - Time savings for your patients, especially at the pharmacy
  - Improves medication safety by checking for allergies, drug-to-drug interactions, and contraindications
  - Sent to the pharmacy of their choice
  - The new drug being prescribed can be verified with the prescription drug formulary to make certain that it is covered

Potential Costs of NOT E-Prescribing

- Not meeting Meaningful Use requirements

- No extra reimbursement from Value-Based Purchasing program

- Two separate workflows for prescribing

- Mistakes made due to no electronic clinical drug support

  - Drug-to-drug interaction, allergy nor contraindication automated support

- Transcription errors

- Increased time spent on the phone with pharmacies to verify prescriptions

Closing Remarks

- Both e-prescribing and EPCS provide convenience, accountability, and security that paper prescriptions lack

- After the initial time investment, e-prescribing and EPCS save time and have numerous benefits over handwritten prescriptions

- Health Current is a resource!

On a related note…

Beginning in Fall of 2017, prescribers will be required to access information from the **Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)** before a prescription for a controlled substance is generated

Health Current can help!

A link to the PDMP will be on the home page of our HIE.

Contact Health Current Recruitment to learn more about joining.

Contact Information

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For information about joining Health Current, contact recruitment@healthcurrent.org or call 602-688-7200

Or visit our website at www.healthcurrent.org

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