



## Position Statement DMEPOS Electronic Ordering (E-Prescribing)

### About AAHomecare

The American Association for Homecare (AAHomecare) is the national association representing durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics and supplies (DMEPOS) suppliers, manufacturers, and other stakeholders in the homecare community. Our members are proud to be part of the continuum of care that assures beneficiaries and other patients receive cost effective, safe, and reliable home care products and services.

### What is E-Prescribing?

DMEPOS e-prescribing is a fully electronic ordering method that allows the prescriber to send an accurate DMEPOS order to a supplier. There are currently four predominant e-prescribing platforms being used by the industry. However, the majority of the prescription orders are still being completed via fax and paper.

### How Are DMEPOS Prescription Orders Being Processed Today?

Even in 2023, the majority of DME ordering occur using the fax machine. When an ordering clinician completes a DMEPOS order in their electronic health record (EHR), the click of the “submit” button generates a fax that is sent to the DMEPOS supplier.

### Why is AAH Advocating for Widespread E-Prescribing Adoption?

AAHomecare aims to eliminate the fax for DMEPOS ordering. E-prescribing offers numerous benefits, including:

1. **Efficiency:** E-prescribing streamlines administrative processes, reduces paperwork and eliminates the need for manual/paper handling, which saves time and resources for all.
2. **Accuracy:** E-prescribing minimizes errors associated with handwritten or faxed orders, leading to improved patient safety and outcomes.
3. **Communication:** E-prescribing facilitates seamless communication between healthcare providers and DMEPOS suppliers, enhancing coordination and continuity of care.
4. **Auditability:** E-prescribing creates a digital trail of actions, making it easier to track and audit orders for compliance, billing, and regulatory purposes.
5. **Integration:** E-prescribing can be integrated with EHRs and other healthcare systems, enabling interoperability and comprehensive patient management.

Embracing e-prescribing on a wider scale holds the potential to significantly elevate patient care standards. By ensuring that ordering providers and DMEPOS suppliers adhere to documentation requirements, it bolsters accountability and transparency, thereby fortifying defenses against fraud and abuse.

### Widespread Adoption of E-Prescribing Will Improve Program Integrity

E-prescribing combats fraud and abuse by establishing transparent processes for generating and recording legitimate prescription orders. Through authentication measures and validation checks, these systems verify the integrity of transactions, minimizing the risk of unauthorized activities. Comprehensive audit

APRIL 2024

trails generated by e-prescribing platforms enable auditors to effectively track and investigate any potential instances of fraud or abuse.

### **Current Status of E-Prescribing**

The utilization of e-prescribing platforms within the DMEPOS industry represents just a fraction of total orders, leaving many still reliant on fax-based processes. Although CMS has the authority to mandate e-prescribing for DMEPOS orders, data sharing standards must be developed in order for CMS to fully endorse e-prescribing.

### **How Can Congress Help with Moving DMEPOS E-Prescribing Forward?**

Congress can influence CMS to encourage/mandate e-prescribing by supporting the effort and by leveraging its oversight authority to encourage CMS to prioritize and implement e-prescribing mandates.