

## Benefits of Electronic Ordering (ePrescribing) for DMEPOS

### OVERVIEW

#### **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 end users receive cost effective, safe, and reliable home care products and services.

#### **What is ePrescribing?**

DMEPOS ePrescribing is a fully electronic ordering method that allows the prescriber to send a DMEPOS order to a supplier. It is similar to how drug prescriptions are being ordered and processed today; however, the majority of DMEPOS orders are still being completed manually.

### **BENEFITS of ePRESCRIBE**

#### **Why is AAHomecare Advocating for Widespread ePrescribing Adoption?**

AAHomecare aims to modernize DMEPOS ordering. ePrescribing offers numerous benefits, including:

1. **Efficiency:** ePrescribing streamlines administrative processes, reduces paperwork, and eliminates the need for manual/paper handling, which saves time and resources for all.
2. **Accuracy:** ePrescribing minimizes errors associated with handwritten orders, leading to improved patient safety and outcomes.
3. **Communication:** ePrescribing facilitates seamless communication between healthcare providers and DMEPOS suppliers, enhancing coordination and continuity of care.
4. **Integration:** ePrescribing can be integrated with electronic health records (EHRs) and other healthcare systems, enabling interoperability and comprehensive patient management.

#### **Widespread Adoption of ePrescribing Will Improve Program Integrity**

ePrescribing combats fraud and abuse by establishing transparent processes for generating and recording legitimate prescription orders.

- **Eliminates “Pre-Signed” Paper Prescriptions:** Historically, clinicians would leave stacks of pre-signed paper prescriptions, making it easy for staff to submit orders without proper physician oversight. ePrescribing eliminates this loophole by requiring real-time, user-authenticated submission.
- **Creates a Digital Audit Trail:** Every action in an ePrescribing system generates a digital footprint—including who ordered what, when, and for whom. This enables both **proactive fraud detection** and **retroactive auditing**, supporting both compliance teams and external audits.
- **Supports Real-Time Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Monitoring:** ePrescribing platforms have the capability to flag suspicious patterns such as unusually high ordering volumes or repeated orders for the same items. This enables real-time intervention and compliance coaching.
- **Enables Transparency for Regulators & Auditors:** The structured, timestamped, and authenticated nature of ePrescribing records makes it easier for CMS, auditors, and the OIG to verify order legitimacy—strengthening trust in DME processes.
- **Reduces Human Error and Ambiguity:** Illegible handwriting, incomplete forms, and vague clinical documentation are common with paper-based orders. ePrescribing enforces completeness and clarity, reducing fraud-by-error as well as intentional abuse.

## **ADVANCING ePRESCRIBE ADOPTION**

### **Current Status of ePrescribing**

The utilization of ePrescribing platforms within the DMEPOS industry represents just a fraction of total orders, leaving many still reliant on an outdated, manual process. Although CMS has the authority to mandate ePrescribing for DMEPOS orders, data sharing standards must be developed in order for CMS to fully endorse ePrescribing.

### **How Can Congress Help with Moving DMEPOS ePrescribing Forward?**

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

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