

# Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances Improves Patient Safety and Reduces Fraud and Abuse



## PURPOSE

As a provider or pharmacist, you should be aware of the new Delaware Electronic Prescribing law, which will change how medications, including controlled substances, are prescribed for patients. Delaware is transitioning from written to electronic prescriptions. This fact sheet offers you a synopsis of the e-prescribing requirements, but it does not cover every aspect, nor does it serve as legal advice. Please review this preliminary information carefully.

## NEW PRESCRIBING REGULATIONS

Electronic prescribing, or e-prescribing, is growing rapidly, not just because the technology has improved, but because of the substantial benefits for patients and providers. A new law requiring e-prescribing in Delaware takes effect on January 1, 2021.

New Delaware and federal legislation will require e-prescribing, with some exceptions, starting January 1, 2021. The federal Substance Use-Disorder Prevention That Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act was signed into law October 24, 2018, and mandates e-prescribing for all controlled substances covered under Medicare Part D, with a few exceptions. In Delaware, House Bill 115 was signed into law June 27, 2019, which expands this requirement to all prescriptions, with certain exceptions.

## BENEFITS OF E-PRESCRIBING

Prescribing controlled substances electronically offers many benefits for patients, providers, and the health care system as a whole. All of these factors will reduce provider burden and create a safer environment for patients.

Some of the benefits of e-prescribing of controlled substances include:

- Enhanced patient safety
- Improved accuracy
- Reduced fraud and drug diversion
- Reduced drug misuse and abuse
- Improved workflow efficiencies

**For more information on electronic prescribing and the new law that will take effect in 2021, visit [HelpsHereDE.com/Providers](https://HelpsHereDE.com/Providers).**

**HELP**  
*is here.*  
PREVENT • TREAT • RECOVER



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
Division of Public Health