



## **ePrescribe Tennessee**

### **Electronic Prescribing for Tennessee**

#### **Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**

**Q: *What is electronic prescribing?***

A: E-prescribing is the use of healthcare technology to improve prescription accuracy, patient safety and costs. This is achieved by providing prescribers a secure means of electronically incorporating patient medical information with health plan formulary, patient eligibility and medication history at the point of care. The result is efficient prescribing processes with more accurate medication orders and less manual intervention with the prescription being electronic sent directly to the patient's pharmacy of choice.

**Q: *What is ePrescribe Tennessee?***

A: ePrescribe Tennessee is a collaborative framework of industry stakeholders working together to help accelerate physician adoption of electronic prescribing by fostering cooperation and coordination among prescribing constituents.

**Q: *Why is ePrescribe Tennessee a collaborative?***

A: ePrescribe Tennessee came about through the recognition that in order to successfully accelerate the adoption of this critical technology, all prescribing stakeholders; physicians, payers, employers, pharmacies, hospitals, regional quality and safety organizations, and vendors must work together.

**Q: *How did ePrescribe Tennessee get started?***

A. Tennessee's Office of eHealth Initiatives (eHealth) paved the way for the launch of ePrescribe Tennessee, after requiring recipients of eHealth's physician connectivity grants to e-prescribe for two years. ePrescribe Tennessee is based on the ePrescribe Florida model of a state-wide entity of health care stakeholders dedicated primarily to accelerating adoption of e-prescribing.

**Q: *What are the goals of ePrescribe Tennessee?***

A: ePrescribe Tennessee seeks to increase patient safety and meet the needs of the Tennessee public, by establishing and promoting an understanding of the benefits and implementation of electronic prescribing. This will be achieved through educational and outreach programs and promoting health plan and other incentives for adopting e-prescribing technology.

**Q: *Why was this initiative started by health plans and not provider organizations?***

A: It has long been recognized that the best approach to gaining market adoption and lessen provider confusion and implementation barriers, is a collaborative multi-payer approach that is uniformly supporting and promoting technology when leveraged across all stakeholders.

**Q: *Why is ePrescribe Tennessee outreaching to provider and pharmacy organizations now?***

A: ePrescribe Tennessee was established with a clear roadmap of engagement starting with the largest health plans agreeing to collaborate with a common message and approach. Now accomplished, the next step is outreaching to provider and regional quality and safety organizations to work together to promote and support electronic prescribing.

**Q: *Who else will participate in the collaborative?***



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A: Plans are to outreach to regional health plans, Medicare and Medicaid; retail pharmacy organizations; providers and large care delivery organizations; employers; vendors who provide e-prescribing applications; pharmaceuticals; the Tennessee legislature and other stakeholders as identified by the prescribing community.

Q: ***Will ePrescribe Tennessee offer a product?***

A: In the first phase of the initiative, the primary products are educational programs and tools that provide an informational resource so prescribers can understand the options and opportunities that exist at all levels of electronic prescribing. This includes drug reference applications, stand-alone e-prescribing applications, and electronic medical record systems that have an embedded electronic prescribing capability.

Q: ***How is ePrescribe Tennessee different from other electronic prescribing initiatives?***

A: ePrescribe Tennessee is striving to be vendor agnostic, providing Tennessee prescribers with the information necessary to make an educated and informed choice regarding why and how to e-prescribe. This includes communicating health plan and other incentive programs that may exist for the Tennessee prescribing community such as those offered by other prescribing initiatives.

Q: ***How is ePrescribe Tennessee different from National ePrescribing Patient Safety Initiative (NEPSI)?***

A: NEPSI is an organization of sponsors that provides an e-prescribing application which may be successfully adopted by some prescribers. ePrescribe Tennessee serves to provide the information necessary to allow prescribers to select among the many electronic prescribing applications, including NEPSI.

Q: ***Will ePrescribe Tennessee select and recommend e-prescribing solutions?***

A: In the first phase of our efforts, ePrescribe Tennessee will focus on becoming an informational clearinghouse for prescribers and offer valuable information on how to select and implement the right application. Based on the feedback and input that we receive from health plans, prescribers, pharmacists, vendors and regional quality and safety organizations, we may examine implementing a certification process in the future.

Q: ***Will those participating in ePrescribe Tennessee be providing financial incentives to prescribers?***

A: At this time ePrescribe Tennessee will serve as a resource to help promote and communicate the various incentive programs offered through participating health plans, or other grants and funding opportunities as they materialize. Based on prescriber and community input, sponsorship opportunities, and how best to accelerate adoption, direct incentives may be implemented in the future.

Q: ***How can I get involved?***

A: ePrescribe Tennessee is looking for individuals and organizations who want to assist in this important effort. At present the organization is made up of a Steering Committee, Advisory Council, and General Membership which is open to individuals in the Tennessee prescribing community.



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**Q: *What is the ePrescribe Tennessee Steering Committee?***

A: The Steering Committee currently consists of voting members representing those organizations who have committed operating funding, infrastructure and leadership resources to provide oversight and governance of all activities related to ePrescribe Tennessee. New members are nominated by the existing Steering Committee and must agree to the ePrescribe Tennessee Operating Principles, Conflict of Interest Disclosure, and Cooperation Agreement.

**Q: *What is the Advisory Council?***

A: ePrescribe Tennessee Advisory Council members are non-voting individuals and organizations who are nominated by the Steering Committee to provide direct input and guidance for the ePrescribe Tennessee mission, vision and workgroup efforts.

**Q: *What is the General Membership?***

A: ePrescribe Tennessee General Membership represents interested parties who participate as working group members, and/or attend educational and other ePrescribe Tennessee meetings and listservs.

**Q: *Whom do I contact for information?***

A: Please contact...

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