May 24, 2010

Dear Valued Client:

On March 31, 2010 the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) published the Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances Interim Final Rule (IFR). Its purpose is to establish rules for the electronic submission of controlled substances.

**Overview**

- The IFR sets rules for allowing electronic prescribing of controlled medications.
- The focus is on diversion and non-repudiation.
- Stringent security requirements have been defined that focus on the key areas of identity proofing, access control, two-factor authentication, and audit requirements.
- The IFR gives prescribers the option of signing and transmitting prescriptions for controlled substances electronically. Written, manually signed, and oral prescriptions for controlled substances, where applicable, are still permitted.

**Complex Process**

This is an important milestone and has started an industry-wide process of technical advance. New layers of infrastructure will be developed at the local, state and national levels to enable the industry to create a system that meets the DEA's new security requirements. Here are a few examples of the changes required to turn this rule into reality:

- Processes will be developed to validate the identity of all legally authorized prescribers.
- Credentials for electronic prescribing of controlled substance will be issued.
- National standards that govern communication of digitally-signed prescriptions will be defined.
- Electronic prescribing vendors (such as Allscripts) will need to incorporate the new standards and requirements into products.
- Pharmacy software vendors will adapt their systems to accept incoming controlled substance e-prescriptions and to validate their authenticity.

**What's Next?**

Given the complexity of implementing these changes, it remains unclear precisely when the industry will be ready to enable providers to electronically prescribe controlled substances. While Allscripts expects that this process will take 12-18 months, we are working hard with our industry partners to accelerate this timeline wherever possible. Allscripts is the leader in e-prescribing, and we will lead the industry in this process as well.

Providers should continue to electronically create and print controlled substance prescriptions using the Allscripts prescribing solutions that they currently use.

**Summary**

The DEA Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances Interim Final Rule is a significant and positive step for the industry. Allscripts is working diligently with our industry partners and other stakeholders to deliver this new capability as quickly as possible. We will continue to keep you updated as our plans take shape. For further information, please visit www.allscripts.com/thetimeisnow. Additional information from the DEA can be found on the links below.

DEA Summary of IFR

General Questions and Answers