



## UNDERSTANDING THE BENEFITS OF E-PRESCRIBING:

*How Does it Work?  
What Can You Do?*

eHEALTH INITIATIVE  
Real Solutions, Better Health

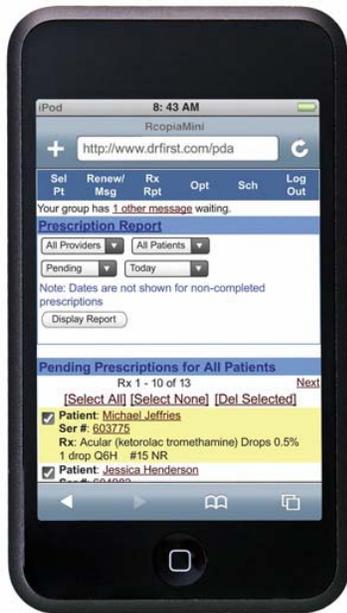
THE CENTER  
for  
Improving Medication Management

A collaborative of providers, payors, employers and pharmacies

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- Electronic prescribing, or e-prescribing, is the use of computers to improve the safety and efficiency of the prescribing process. Under an e-prescribing system, a care provider—such as a doctor or a nurse practitioner—uses a computer system to enter information about prescription medications that a patient needs, and then electronically transmits that data directly to the pharmacy computer.
- Prescription drugs are a common part of medical treatment. Today, four out of five Americans who visit a doctor leave with a prescription. In 2007, more than 3.5 billion prescriptions were written, and that number is expected to grow to more than 4 billion by 2010. Because of the high number of prescriptions, many errors or other mistakes can occur. Studies indicate that more than 1.5 million Americans are hurt each year by preventable medication errors.
- E-prescribing can lead to a reduction in medication errors and injuries, greater convenience for patients, a more streamlined refill process, better management of medication costs, and healthier patients by helping people remember to take their medications properly.
- E-prescribing also makes it easier for your physician or nurse to access a list of your medications, and the technology can alert them to potential problems such as a drug allergy.
- There are no fees to the patient for e-prescriptions. With e-prescribing, however, a physician may have information at the time of prescribing that enables him or her to select a lower-cost medication that is equally effective so that the patient may have a lower out-of-pocket cost.
- The security and privacy of personal information, whether electronic or on paper, is critically important. Concerns about privacy and security are legitimate, and the health care industry takes them very seriously. E-prescribing complies with the federal privacy law, HIPAA, as well as with stronger state laws.
- To learn which physicians are e-prescribing, find pharmacies that are accepting electronic prescriptions, and more, visit [www.LearnAboutEprescriptions.com](http://www.LearnAboutEprescriptions.com).