NEW BUSINESS

(To be submitted and introduced by Delegates only)

Introduced by: William “Chris” Charles

(Name)

1/21/2020 APhA Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management (APhA-APPM)

(Date) (Organization)

Subject: E-Prescribing Standardization

Motion: To amend existing policy to include the following new statement #5 on 2010 E-prescribing Standardization:

5. APhA supports laws and regulations that require e-prescribing of controlled substances to eliminate many types of fraudulent prescriptions.

Background:

E-prescribing is widely accepted by the healthcare industry as a tool that reduces medication errors by improving the accuracy and understandability of prescriptions, and simplifying the prescription process for doctors and patients. In the decade since APhA adopted its statement on e-prescribing, the technology has largely become the preferred method for writing prescriptions nationwide. Much of what APhA supports has been implemented by organizations like NCPDP and the nation’s largest insurer, Medicare, which took several regulatory steps and implemented financial incentives to encourage its adoption nationwide.

Meanwhile, in recent years opioid abuse has emerged as a major public health crisis. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) identified early on that prescription fraud is a major factor in increasing the supply of illicit opioids. The DEA’s Pharmacist’s Guide to Prescription Fraud released in 2000 identified five major avenues for forged prescriptions. All five methods are essentially eliminated with the use of e-prescribing. In 2010 the DEA made the connection and issued regulations allowing the use of the technology for controlled substance prescribing.

Initially, states were slow to adopt e-prescribing for controlled substances. From 2010 to 2018, only 4 states had mandated its use. However, as standards and technology have improved, additional benefits such as 2-factor identification and cross-referencing with prescription drug monitoring programs have increased the
ability to reduce fraudulent and inappropriate controlled substance prescribing. With added benefits and confidence, several other states have reassessed their initial reluctance. As of August 2019, a total of 27 states have passed laws that require controlled substances be e-prescribed, with planned implementation dates ranging from 2020 – 2023. Interestingly though, approximately half of these states allow for program waivers and include no penalties for non-compliance.

The recent progress is very encouraging, but it is worth noting that as of August 2019, only one additional state has legislation pending consideration. More work is needed to maintain the momentum, and ensure all states require controlled substance e-prescribing. The APhA-APPM encourages APhA members to modernize their stance on e-prescribing by adding their explicit support of a requirement for controlled substances.


**Current APhA Policy & Bylaws:**

2010 E-prescribing Standardization

1. APhA supports the standardization of user interfaces to improve quality and reduce errors unique to e-prescribing.
2. APhA supports reporting mechanisms and research efforts to evaluate the effectiveness, safety, and quality of e-prescribing systems, computerized prescriber order entry (CPOE) systems, and the e-prescriptions that they produce, in order to improve health information technology systems and, ultimately, patient care.
3. APhA supports the development of financial incentives for pharmacists and prescribers to provide high quality e-prescribing activities.
4. APhA supports the inclusion of pharmacists in quality improvement and meaningful use activities related to the use of e-prescribing and other health information technology that would positively impact patient health outcomes.


**Phone numbers will only be used by the New Business Review Committee in case there are questions for the delegate who submitted the New Business Item Content.**

New Business Items are due to the Speaker of the House by **February 19, 2020** (30 days prior to the start of the first House session). Consideration of urgent items can be presented with a suspension of the House Rules at the session where New Business will be acted upon. Please submit New Business Items to the Speaker of the House via email at hod@aphanet.org.