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The Buying Cooperative
Third Party Update

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To: IPA NY Members

From: Heather Rodgers

March 11, 2016

REMINDER: Electronic Prescribing Mandate

The implementation date for mandatory electronic prescribing in New York is March 27, 2016. Information regarding requirements can be found at www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/electronic_prescribing/. Electronic prescribing of both controlled and non-controlled substances is currently permissible in New York. Practitioners must ensure compliance with the requirement, including working with their software vendors to implement the additional security requirements needed for electronic prescribing of controlled substances and registering their certified software applications with the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement.

Below are key points that may be of particular interest to prescribers and pharmacists:

- A prescription generated on an electronic system that is printed out on the Official New York State Prescription form or faxed is **NOT** an electronic prescription.
- Amendments to Title 10 NYCRR Part 80 New York Codes, Rules and Regulations on Controlled Substances have been adopted and became effective as final regulations on March 27, 2013. The amendments authorize a practitioner to issue an electronic prescription for controlled substances in Schedules II through V and allow a pharmacist to accept, annotate, dispense and electronically archive such prescriptions.
- After March 27, 2016, a pharmacist is **NOT required** to verify that a practitioner properly falls under one of the exceptions from the requirement to electronically prescribe. Pharmacists may continue to dispense medications from valid written, oral, or fax prescriptions that are consistent with current laws, regulations, and Medicaid policies.

A comprehensive list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) can be found at www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/electronic_prescribing/docs/epcs_faqs.pdf.

The FAQs provide an explanation of the laws and regulations, pharmacy registration forms, registration for official prescriptions and e-prescribing systems (ROPES), software and data requirements, waivers and exceptions, and resource information and contacts.

For more information or questions, please contact the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement at 866-811-7957 or via e-mail to narcotic@health.ny.gov or call Heather at IPA @ 800-575-2667 or hrodgers@ipagroup.org. Please check the IPA website for any updates at www.ipa-rx.org.