

State Regulations for **EPCS**



A state-by-state summary of the current regulations surrounding electronic prescriptions

Regulations for the Electronic Prescription of Controlled Substances, or EPCS, are determined at the state level. Staying compliant and knowing the current standards for prescriptions is essential for providing patients with safe and legal care.

Healthcare organizations tend to serve providers in multiple states. How do you know that the ePrescribing service you are using meets the necessary requirements? You must ensure your software provider is in compliance, especially as prescriptions cross state lines.

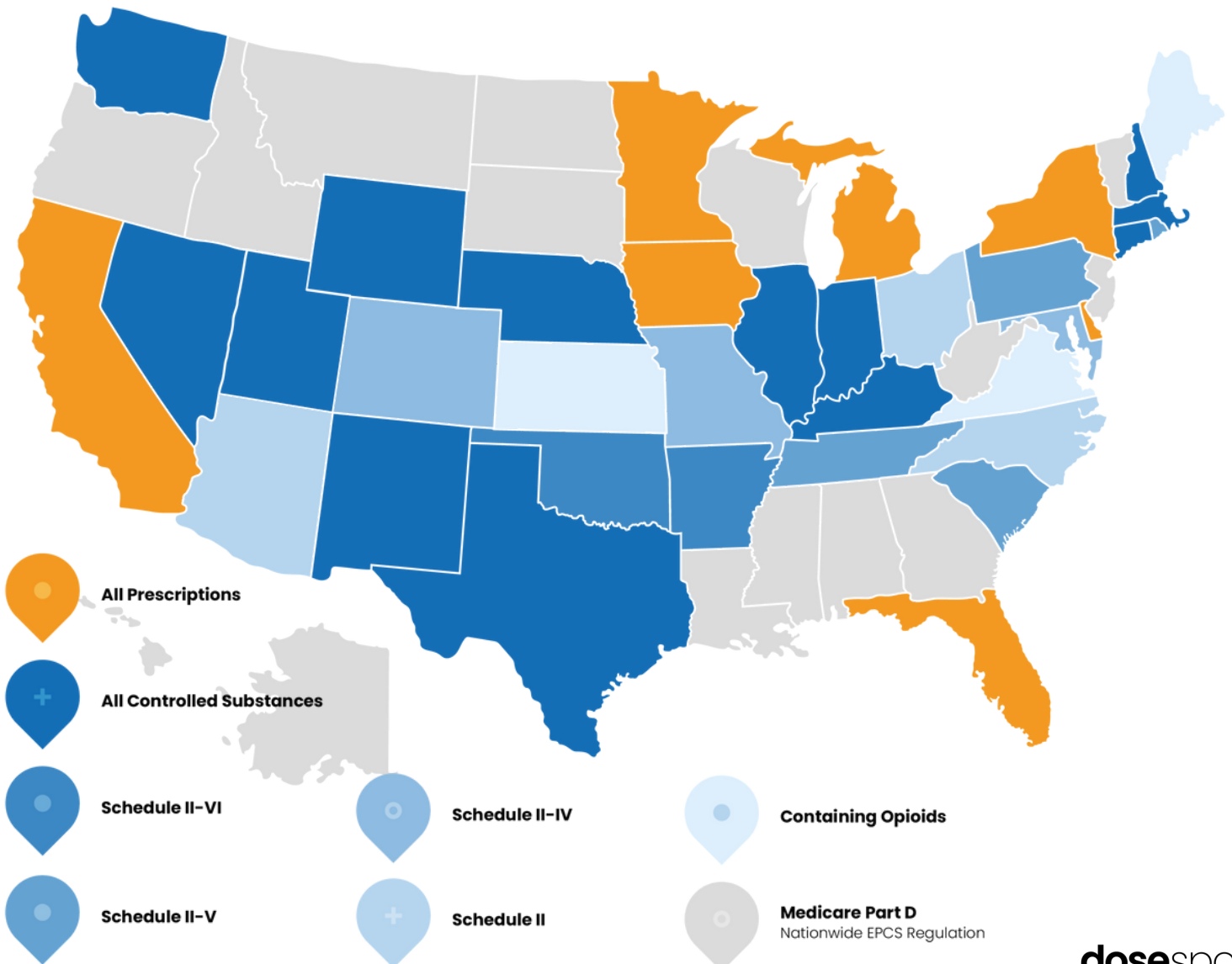
The most expansive national requirements for ePrescribing came into effect on **January 1st, 2023**. With this, all providers servicing Medicare Part D patients are required to send prescriptions electronically.

Why are there regulations for **EPCS**?

ePrescriptions allow providers to safely and efficiently send prescriptions directly to pharmacies electronically. These trackable scripts give providers essential insights that allow them to view medication history, watch for improper usage, and monitor those at risk for abuse. ePrescriptions elevate the safety and efficiency of prescription medications, allowing a better care experience for providers, patients, and healthcare organizations.

The US government, the healthcare industry, and the general public are very aware of the Opioid Epidemic and the role that prescription medicine plays. One way to address this issue is to require the use of electronic prescriptions. Regulations are not to limit, but to improve care.

ePrescribing Requirements by State



SUPPORT Act – Federal Regulations for **EPCS**

The Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act, **SUPPORT Act**, which became Public Law 115-271 in October 2018, is a bipartisan effort to address the country's opioid and substance misuse epidemic.

Section 2003 of the SUPPORT Act mandates that the prescribing of a Schedule II, III, IV, or V controlled substance under Medicare Part D prescription drug plans (Medicare Part D) be done electronically in accordance with an electronic prescription drug program. The first measurement year for compliance with the requirements of the EPCS Program began January 1, 2023 and ends December 31, 2023.

The SUPPORT Act is Federal, meaning providers servicing Medicare Part D patients will be required to comply with the federal mandate even if their state does not have EPCS regulations.

Changes for **2024**

Beyond the SUPPORT Act, there are changes in a few states' EPCS mandates for 2024. Changes may occur throughout the year, and new bills are proposed regularly.

The DEA issued a second temporary rule extending Telemedicine Flexibilities for Prescribing Controlled Substances through December 31st, 2024. The DEA is expected to share a draft proposal for the final rule in early 2024, going into effect in 2025.

The most notable changes set for 2024 are in **Nebraska** and **Illinois**.

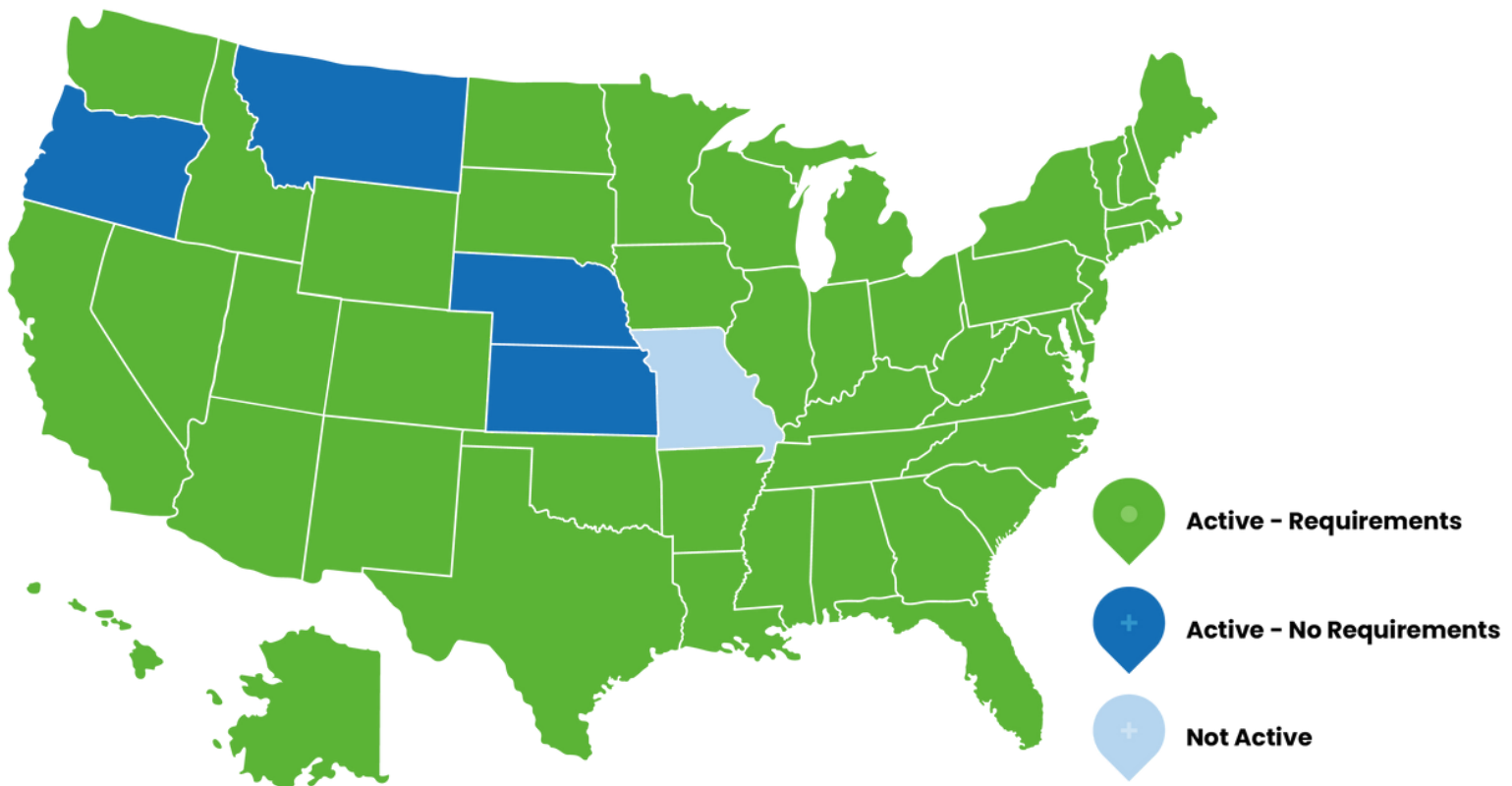
For Nebraska, Dentists will now be required to submit all controlled substance prescriptions electronically.

In Illinois, prescribers who issue more than 150 controlled substance prescriptions annually, will now be required to electronically prescribe all controlled substances.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – **PDMP**

A Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, or PDMP, is an electronic database that tracks controlled substance prescriptions within a state. PDMPs allow providers to make informed prescribing choices and help to improve opioid prescribing, inform clinical practice, and protect patients at risk.

PDMPs are operated at the state level, with 49 of 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam having implemented such programs. The majority of states require usage and reporting for healthcare professionals prescribing controlled substances.



Stay **Informed**

This guide was compiled with information available as of October 2023 and, to the best of our knowledge, was accurate at that time.

As these mandates are ever-changing, online resources such as this guide may not contain the most current information. We strongly recommend that you verify a particular state's current laws and requirements.

Alabama

The state of Alabama does **not currently have any regulations for EPCS.**



Medicare Part D
Nationwide EPCS Regulation



PDMP Requirements

Alaska

The state of Alaska does **not currently have any regulations for EPCS.**



Medicare Part D
Nationwide EPCS Regulation



PDMP Requirements

Arizona

As of July 9th, 2021 the state of Arizona requires EPCS for all **schedule II opioid prescriptions.**



Schedule II



PDMP Requirements

Arkansas

The state of Arkansas requires EPCS for **Schedule II-VI prescriptions.**



Schedule II-VI



PDMP Requirements

California

The state of California requires **all prescriptions** to be issued electronically.



All Prescriptions



PDMP Requirements

Colorado

As of July 1, 2023, the state of Colorado requires EPCS for **Schedule II-IV prescriptions**.



Schedule II-IV



PDMP Requirements

Connecticut

The state of Connecticut requires **all controlled substances** to be issued electronically.



Schedule II-VI



PDMP Requirements

Delaware

The state of Delaware requires **all prescriptions** to be issued electronically.



All Prescriptions



PDMP Requirements

Florida

The state of Florida requires **all prescriptions** to be issued electronically.



All Prescriptions



PDMP Requirements

Georgia

The state of Georgia does **not currently have a mandate for EPCS**.



Medicare Part D
Nationwide EPCS Regulation



PDMP Requirements

Hawaii

The state of Hawaii does **not currently have a mandate for EPCS.**



Medicare Part D
Nationwide EPCS Regulation



PDMP Requirements

Idaho

The state of Idaho does **not currently have a mandate for EPCS.**



Medicare Part D
Nationwide EPCS Regulation



PDMP Requirements

Illinois

Starting January 1, 2024, Illinois prescribers who issue more than 150 controlled substance prescriptions annually will be required to send **all controlled substances electronically.**



All Controlled Substances



PDMP Requirements

Indiana

The state of Indiana requires **all controlled substances** to be prescribed electronically.



All Controlled Substances



PDMP Requirements

Iowa

The state of Iowa requires **all prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



All Prescriptions



PDMP Requirements

Kansas

The state of Kansas requires **schedule II-V controlled substances that contain an opiate** to be prescribed electronically.



Containing Opioids



PDMP Not Required

Kentucky

The state of Kentucky requires **all controlled substances** to be prescribed electronically.



All Controlled Substances



PDMP Requirements

Louisiana

The state of Louisiana does **not currently have a mandate for EPCS**.



Medicare Part D
Nationwide EPCS Regulation



PDMP Requirements

Maine

The state of Maine requires **controlled substances Schedule II-IV that contain opioids** to be prescribed electronically.



Containing Opioids



PDMP Requirements

Maryland

As of January 1, 2023, the state of Maryland requires **Controlled Dangerous Substances** to be prescribed electronically.



Schedule II-IV



PDMP Requirements

Massachusetts

The state of Massachusetts requires **all controlled substances** to be prescribed electronically.



All Controlled Substances



PDMP Requirements

Michigan

As of January 1, 2023, the state of Michigan requires **all prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



All Prescriptions



PDMP Requirements

Minnesota

The state of Minnesota requires **all prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



All Prescriptions



PDMP Requirements

Mississippi

The state of Mississippi does **not currently have any EPCS regulations**.



Medicare Part D
Nationwide EPCS Regulation



PDMP Requirements

Missouri

The state of Missouri requires **any schedule II-IV controlled substance** prescriptions to be sent electronically.



Schedule II-IV



PDMP In Progress

Montana

The state of Montana does **not currently have any EPCS regulations.**



Medicare Part D
Nationwide EPCS Regulation



PDMP Not Required

Nebraska

The state of Nebraska requires **all controlled substance prescriptions** to be sent electronically.

Starting January 1, 2024, these EPCS regulations will be applied to Dentists.



All Controlled Substances



PDMP Not Required

Nevada

The state of Nevada requires **all controlled substance prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



All Controlled Substances



PDMP Requirements

New Hampshire

The state of New Hampshire requires **all controlled substance prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



All Controlled Substances



PDMP Requirements

New Jersey

The state of New Jersey does **not currently have any regulations for EPCS.**



Medicare Part D
Nationwide EPCS Regulation



PDMP Requirements

New Mexico

The state of New Mexico requires **all controlled substance prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



All Controlled Substances



PDMP Requirements

New York

The state of New York requires **all prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



All Prescriptions



PDMP Requirements

North Carolina

The state of North Carolina requires **Schedule II controlled substance prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



Schedule II



PDMP Requirements

North Dakota

The state of North Dakota does **not currently have any regulations for EPCS.**



Medicare Part D
Nationwide EPCS Regulation



PDMP Requirements

Ohio

The state of Ohio requires **Schedule II controlled substance prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



Schedule II



PDMP Requirements

Oklahoma

The state of Oklahoma requires **Schedule II-V controlled substance prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



Schedule II-V



PDMP Required

Oregon

The state of Oregon does **not currently have any EPCS regulations.**



Medicare Part D
Nationwide EPCS Regulation



PDMP Not Required

Pennsylvania

The state of Pennsylvania requires **Schedule II-V controlled substance prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



Schedule II-V



PDMP Required

Rhode Island

The state of Rhode Island requires **Schedule II-V controlled substance prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



Schedule II-V



PDMP Required

South Carolina

The state of South Carolina requires **Schedule II-V controlled substance prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



Schedule II-V



PDMP Required

South Dakota

The state of South Dakota does **not** currently have any EPCS regulations.



Medicare Part D
Nationwide EPCS Regulation



PDMP Requirements

Tennessee

The state of Tennessee requires **Schedule II-V controlled substance prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



Schedule II-V



PDMP Required

Texas

The state of Texas requires **all controlled substance prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



All Controlled Substances



PDMP Requirements

Utah

The state of Utah requires **all controlled substance prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



All Controlled Substances



PDMP Requirements

Vermont

The state of Vermont does **not** currently have any EPCS regulations.



Medicare Part D
Nationwide EPCS Regulation



PDMP Requirements

Virginia

The state of Virginia requires that **any controlled substances containing an opioid be prescribed electronically.**



Containing Opioids



PDMP Requirements

Washington

The state of Washington requires **all controlled substance prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



All Controlled Substances



PDMP Requirements

West Virginia

The state of West Virginia does **not currently have any EPCS regulations.**



Medicare Part D
Nationwide EPCS Regulation



PDMP Requirements

Wisconsin

The state of Wisconsin does **not currently have any EPCS regulations.**



Medicare Part D
Nationwide EPCS Regulation



PDMP Requirements

Wyoming

The state of Wyoming requires **all controlled substance prescriptions** to be sent electronically.



All Controlled Substances



PDMP Requirements

Next Steps

For Providers:

Make sure your EHR/EMR integrated software is compliant with your state's regulations. If you are not currently utilizing ePrescribing software, you should seek practice management software options that can be easily integrated. Make sure you select a solution that is EPCS-certified, like DoseSpot.

If your EHR/EMR does not offer a satisfactory solution for ePrescribing, there are standalone solutions available, like [Treat Rx](#).

For Vendors:

Your solution should have an integrated ePrescribing solution to meet your provider's needs. If your current solution isn't certified for EPCS, is unreliable, or lacking capabilities, there are ePrescribing options like DoseSpot.

When picking a software solution, check that they offer an integration for PDMP to meet your provider's state requirements.

Stay Informed

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