



## **Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances – Effective January 1, 2021 –**

In 2019, the Tennessee General Assembly enacted Public Chapter 124, modifying existing controlled substance and opioid laws. One such change requires that **all prescriptions for controlled substances in Tennessee (unless exempted below) must be prescribed electronically, beginning January 1, 2021.** These changes brought Tennessee into alignment with the federal SUPPORT Act, which requires all controlled substance prescriptions in Schedules II-V for covered Part D drugs under a prescription drug plan or MA-PD plan to be electronically prescribed, beginning January 1, 2021.

### **Exemptions to Controlled Substance E-Prescribing Mandate**

- Rx issued by veterinarians
- Where electronic prescribing is not available due to technological or electrical failure
- Rx issued to be dispensed by a pharmacy located outside TN
- Rx issued when the prescriber and dispenser are the same entity
- Rx issued while elements not supported by NCPDP/SCRIPT Prescriber/ Pharmacist Interface SCRIPT standard
- Rx issued for a drug for which FDA requires elements that cannot be accomplished with electronic prescribing
- Non-patient-specific Rx pursuant to standing order, protocol, or CPPA
- Rx issued by a prescriber prescribing a drug under a research protocol
- Rx issued by a prescriber who has received a waiver or a renewed waiver
- Rx issued when prescriber determines that e-prescribing would delay patient from obtaining Rx in a timely manner
- Prescriber issues fifty (50) or fewer Schedule II controlled substance prescriptions per year

Note: Pharmacists are **not required to verify** the prescription exemption with the prescriber. Pharmacists may continue to dispense medications from otherwise valid written, oral, or fax prescriptions in accordance with TCA §53-11-308.

**For more information and resources, please visit  
[www.tnpharm.org](http://www.tnpharm.org) or call TPA at 615.256.3023.**

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