

# UNDERSTANDING THE FACTS ABOUT EPRESCRIBING<sup>1</sup>

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## Electronic Prescribing

Electronic prescribing, or e-Prescribing, is when your doctor enters information about drugs you may need into a computer. This electronic prescription is sent over a secure network to the pharmacy you choose. The pharmacy receives the prescription and can begin filling it right away.

### Benefits of e-Prescribing

- E-Prescribing is free.
- Drugs may be cheaper. When your doctor uses an e-Prescription, the computer may suggest alternative medications that may help you, but cost less.
- Your doctor can see a list of all the medications you take. The computer program can warn him or her about possible drug allergies or bad drug interactions.
- E-Prescribing complies with laws about who can see your medical information. You decide who has permission to know what medications you take.
- Medical mistakes sometimes happen when a pharmacist cannot read the handwriting on a prescription. Using a computer will make a prescription easier to read and will reduce mistakes.
- An e-Prescription is sent to the pharmacy by way of a computer. This means there will be fewer phone calls or faxes to the pharmacy.
- An e-Prescription goes directly to the pharmacy, so you do not need to drop it off and wait while it is filled.
- Your doctor can enter your insurance information into the e-Prescription system. This will make it easier for the doctor to prescribe a drug that is covered by your insurance.

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<sup>1</sup> Developed through the Kansas CEE Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC) Project (March 2009). Adapted from a KS HISPC publication.