

NPO Pharmacy Corner

June 1, 2011

As of today's date no E-Prescribing software has been approved by the DEA for use with **controlled substances**. If you are hearing otherwise from your vendor-this is the truth of the matter. As soon as one is approved I will share it with everyone, as well as best practices for controls. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, kathyengstrom50@gmail.com or (231)-631-4136

Just a FYI we continue to have **manufacturer shortages on some common medications**.

- Medrol® Dosepack or even methylprednisolone tablets are totally unavailable. Most physicians are doing a prednisone taper instead
- The Adderall® shortage seems to be lessened for the brand and generic versions
- Generic Ritalin® 20mg is still unavailable—other strengths are in stock.
- All generic and brand Maxzide® and Dyazide® products are unavailable. Some stores do have dwindling quantities of generic Maxzide® 75/50 which can be broken in half to achieve the common 37.5/25 strength which is used.

Now that **Allegra and Allegra D** are over-the-counter, the rx versions of those generics are not available. Several insurances are still paying for them and will also pay for the OTC Allegra with a generic copay rate (however, if we try to use the rx only brand name Allegra it has a brand name copay-go figure). In order to be paid by insurance a patient still needs a prescription from their physician, even though it is OTC.