



# Electronic Prescribing

## Section Contents

- BCBSM PCMH electronic prescribing criteria
- Tool eP-1 — Do you have meaningful use?
- Tool eP-2 — Try DrFirst for free
- Tool eP-3— Is your system 'Qualified'?

## Electronic Prescribing

**Overview:** The goal of the Electronic Prescribing Initiative is to improve the safety, quality and cost-effectiveness of the prescription process through widespread adoption and increased use of electronic prescribing and clinical decision support tools.

**These Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan points pertain to the electronic prescribing initiative:**

Criteria

Met 

- 8.4 Practice unit has full e-Rx functionality with full utilization (for all prescriptions that can be legally transmitted electronically) **by one or more provider champions**, while actively taking steps to transition the process of care and train the rest of the practice unit for full implementation within 12 months. Full e-Rx functionality is defined as:
  - Vendor meets Medicare certification standards (e.g., fully certified by RxHub or BCBSM hub on all dimensions and gold certified by SureScripts)
  - Vendor contractually guarantees at least 96% uptime
  - For controlled substances, physicians are able to use e-Rx system to obtain decision support and complete medication history
  
- 8.7 Practice unit has full e-Rx functionality (as defined in 8.4) in use by all physicians in practice unit with full utilization (all prescriptions that can legally be transmitted electronically)

## Do you have meaningful use?

After the initial implementation period, the incentive will only apply for ongoing meaningful use of e-Prescribing.

Meaningful use is defined as using e-Prescribing for at least 50 percent of all office visits where any prescription is written. This includes using it to update medication histories and print prescriptions when they cannot be transmitted electronically. Exclusions due to state or federal law or regulation (narcotics or controlled substances) patient requests, and the pharmacy's inability to receive electronic submissions are allowed.

It is expected that e-Prescribing would be used for all payers. Generally, based on the Northern Physicians Organization experience, an adult primary care physician will generate 25 to 40 electronic prescriptions per week and pediatricians will generate 15 to 30 per week for meaningful use.

Obtain reports from your e-Prescribing vendor to validate your usage. See example from DrFirst below.

# Prescription Report

**Prescription Report**

**Provider:** All Providers

**Patient:**  All Patients  Current (charles Bleue)

**Status:**  All  Pending  Completed

Note: Dates are not shown for non-completed prescriptions.

**Completion Date:**  Today [Show Date Choices](#)

**Maximum:** 50

There are a number of optional filters provided so you can customize the prescription report:

**Patient** - Defaults to *All Patients*.  
If you proceed to the *Prescription Report* while currently viewing a patient's record, that patient will become a *Current* patient option for filtering the report.

**Status**

**All**  
Displays pending and completed prescriptions.

**Pending**  
Displays only those prescriptions that have not been sent to the pharmacy.

**Completed**  
Displays all prescriptions that have been completed (signed and sent or signed and printed)

**Completion Date**  
Allows you to select a different day besides the default, which is the current day. Click on the **Show Date Choices** link to view filter options

**Maximum**  
Allows you to set the maximum number of prescriptions to display: 10, 50 (default), 100, 200.

## Try e-Prescribing for FREE

The Consortium of Independent Physician Associations (CIPA) offers a FREE one-year subscription to Rcopia's DrFirst. The offer includes a free upload of patient demographic records. Onsite training and telephone support are also free. In addition, you can qualify for a \$500 hardware credit after three months of use by generating 50 or more prescriptions per month.

DrFirst is an award-winning, full-featured e-prescribing program which allows medical providers to improve the safety and efficiency of the prescribing process. New prescriptions and renewals are sent electronically to the patient's pharmacy of choice – even mail order pharmacies. DrFirst checks for patient insurance eligibility, formulary compliance and medication lists obtained through RxHub from payers, PBMs and SureScripts pharmacy fill history. The application offers clinical decision support tools to check prescriptions for drug-drug and drug-allergy interactions and appropriate dosing. DrFirst also offers the ability to interface with the physician's choice of practice management or EMR system.

For more information, email Judy Oake, RN at [erx@thecipa.com](mailto:erx@thecipa.com).

## DrFirst has an active medication list and a 2-year history on patients

# PBM Medication History

Patient Demographic Information			
Patient:	test medco (#xxxddf) <a href="#">[Prescribe]</a>	DOB:	11/20/1975 <a href="#">[Demographics]</a>
Phone:	(202) 345-9867 (home) , (301) 234-4456 (work)	LOV:	05/10/2007 <a href="#">[Visit Today]</a>
Pharmacy:	CVS/Wandys (19150 Montgomery Village Ave )	Formulary:	Medco Health (MHS) <a href="#">[Pharmacy]</a>
Resp. Provider:	Sherica Davall		

Your practice group has 8 renewal requests waiting.

**Prescribe a Medication**

Select Medication for Prescription

Name:

Favorites: Accolate Tablet 10 mg 4 three times a day #84 [F]

**Medications** [\[Manage Medications\]](#)

View: [\[Detail\]](#) [\[Mini\]](#) [PBM/Pharmacy History](#)

- Allegra (fexofenadine) (Tablet 60 mg) 1 tablet as needed Disp. 90  
Actions: [\[Renew\]](#) [\[Prescribe\]](#) [\[Stop\]](#)
- Coumadin (warfarin) (Tablet 5 mg) Disp. NR  
Actions: [\[Renew\]](#) [\[Prescribe\]](#) [\[Stop\]](#)
- MORPHINE SULFATE Disp. 1 NR (last. 12/12/2006)  
Actions: [\[Renew\]](#) [\[Prescribe\]](#) [\[Stop\]](#)

PBM history is available for all patients whose insurance companies provide this information to RxHub.

Patient medication information is displayed according to their primary insurance company's records.

PBM (Pharmacy Benefit Management) History will display up to 2 years history of the patient's prescribed medications.

Click on **PBM /Pharmacy History**.

## DrFirst provides information on lower cost generics

Patient Summary Screen

**Practice Information**  
 Practice: Product Team Demo    User: Sean M Shillinger\_demo [Schedule] [Messages]  
 Note! You are logged in as a TEST user. Prescriptions generated by a TEST user will not be sent to pharmacies.

**Patient Demographic Information**  
 Patient: **Holly Turner** [Prescribe]    DOB: 10/10/1961 [Demographics]  
 Phone: (703) 555-9461 (home) , (703) 456-2002 (work)    LOV: 05/10/2006 [Visit Today]  
 Pharmacy: Walgreen #65409 (4020 Eastern Avenue)    Formulary: ESI Plan (ESI) [Pharmacy]

Your practice group has 8 renewal requests waiting.

**Prescribe a Medication**  
 Select Medication for Prescription  
 Name:  Find    Category Search  
 Favorites: Accolate Tablet 10 mg 4 three times a day #84 [NF]    Use    View/Update

2 Use free text 'omep'

1 **omeprazole** (generic, Prilosec) (P1)    3

**Capsule, Delayed Release (E.C.) 10 mg**

**Capsule, Delayed Release (E.C.) 20 mg**

omeprazole (Prilosec) (NF)

**Capsule, Delayed Release (E.C.) 40 mg**

omeprazole magnesium (Prilosec OTC) (F)

**Tablet, Delayed Release (E.C.) 20 mg**

omeprazole-sodium bicarbonate (Zegend) (NF)

**Capsule 20-1,100 mg**

**Capsule 40-1,100 mg**

**Packet 20-1,680 mg**

**Packet 40-1,680 mg**

(1) Click on the dosage OR  
 (2) Select the generic/brand name form OR  
 (3) Check on formulary status


**Pending Prescriptions for this Patient** [Show All Prescriptions]  
 [Select All] [Select None] [Delete Selected]

Signature Password:


Add to Meds     Print Pharmacy

Serial#	Dr/Staff	Name	Date	Status	Drug	Sig	Qty	Rfl(s)	Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AA-21797003	SMS	Holly Turner	05/17/2007	pending	Zoloft (sertraline) Tablet 50 mg	1 tablet once a day	90	3	Modify Delete Favor
No Recent Visit									
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AA-21797021	SMS	Holly Turner	05/17/2007	pending	Norvasc (amlodipine besylate) Tablet 5 mg	1 tablet once a day	30	1	Modify Delete Favor
No Recent Visit									
WARNING									

## DrFirst has dose alerts

<b>Practice Information</b>			
Practice: Medical Advantage Group/CIPA User: Barbara Ferrara <a href="#">[Schedule]</a> <a href="#">[Messages]</a>			
<b>Note! You are logged-in as a TEST user. Prescriptions generated by a TEST user will not be sent to pharmacies.</b>			
<b>Patient Demographic Information</b>			
Patient:	Test Medco <a href="#">[Prescribe]</a> <a href="#">[Change Demographics]</a> 	DOB:	11/20/1975 Gender: Male
Phone:	(202) 345-9867 (home)	LOV:	03/19/2009 <a href="#">[Visit Today]</a>
Pharmacy:	Mission Pharmacy Llc (808 S Mission Mt Pleasant MI) <a href="#">[Change]</a>	Formulary:	NCBCBSM TEST PLAN, mail & retail (PBM_NCBCBSM)
<b>Confirm Prescription Despite Warning</b>			
The medication(s) you have prescribed may not be appropriate given this patient's information.			
<b>DOSE CHECK ALERT!</b> The dose for your prescription (Lipitor (atorvastatin) Tablet 20 mg) is 1 tablet (20 mg) five times a day (total: 100 MG/DAY). This exceeds the accepted maximum daily dose for this drug (80 MG/DAY). Please evaluate this dose for appropriateness.			
<b>DOSE CHECK ALERT!</b> The frequency for your prescription (Lipitor (atorvastatin) Tablet 20 mg) is 5 times a day. This is greater than the highest usual frequency (once a day).			
You may provide a justification for prescribing this medication notwithstanding the warning.			
<input type="text"/>			
<input type="button" value="Prescribe Anyway"/> <input type="button" value="Back"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/>			
[Note: The professional duty in providing care to the patient lies solely with the healthcare professional providing such service, and the Rcopia prescription tool is in no way intended to replace or substitute for professional judgment.]			
Eligibility provided by Medco Health Solutions, Inc., PBM_NCBCBSM			

## DrFirst has allergy alerts

	Select Patient	Prescription Report	Help / Contact Us
	Manage Medications	Additional Options	Log Out
	Manage Allergies	Members Area	Refresh / Clear
<b>Practice Information</b>			
Practice: Medical Advantage Group/CIPA User: Barbara Ferrara <a href="#">[Schedule]</a> <a href="#">[Messages]</a>			
<b>Note! You are logged-in as a TEST user. Prescriptions generated by a TEST user will not be sent to pharmacies.</b>			
<b>Patient Demographic Information</b>			
Patient:	Test Medco <a href="#">[Prescribe]</a> <a href="#">[Change Demographics]</a> 	DOB:	11/20/1975 Gender: Male
Phone:	(202) 345-9867 (home)	LOV:	03/19/2009 <a href="#">[Visit Today]</a>
Pharmacy:	Mission Pharmacy Llc (808 S Mission Mt Pleasant MI) <a href="#">[Change]</a>	Formulary:	NCBCBSM TEST PLAN, mail & retail (PBM_NCBCBSM)
<b>Confirm Prescription Despite Warning</b>			
The medication(s) you have prescribed may not be appropriate given this patient's information.			
<b>ALLERGY ALERT!</b> This patient is listed as having an allergic reaction (unspecified) to <b>Lipitor (atorvastatin)</b> , which is identical to the drug you have just prescribed, <b>Lipitor (atorvastatin)</b> . Proceed with extreme caution.			
<b>FORMULARY ALERT!</b> This patient insurance coverage, NCBCBSM TEST PLAN (PBM_NCBCBSM), provides the following guidance for the drug you have just prescribed, <b>Lipitor (atorvastatin)</b> .			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This drug is non-formulary. Please prescribe an alternative.</li> </ul>			
Drugs in the same categories (Antihyperlipidemic - HMG CoA Reductase Inhibitors (statins)) that have fewer limitations or a lower copay include:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lovastatin Tablet 10 mg (P1)</li> <li>lovastatin Tablet 20 mg (P1)</li> <li>lovastatin Tablet 40 mg (P1)</li> </ul>			

## DrFirst offers one-click fast and easy prescription renewals

# Renewing Medications

**Medications** [\[Manage Medications\]](#)

View: [\[Detail\]](#) [\[Mini\]](#) [\[PBM/Pharmacy History\]](#)      Actions: [\[Renew Selected\]](#) [\[Select All\]](#) [\[Select None\]](#)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Alegtra (fexofenadine)</b> (Tablet 60 mg) 1/4 mg twice a week as needed for pain Disp. 15 Rfl #11 (last: 02/19/2007) Actions: <a href="#">[Renew]</a> <a href="#">[Prescribe]</a> <a href="#">[Stop]</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Atenolol(Atenolol)</b> (Tablet 50 mg) 1 tablet once a day Disp. 90 Rfl #3 (last: 05/30/2006) Actions: <a href="#">[Renew]</a> <a href="#">[Prescribe]</a> <a href="#">[Stop]</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Norvasc (amlodipine besylate)</b> (Tablet 5 mg) 1 tablet once a day Disp. 30 Rfl #1 (last: 05/20/2005) Actions: <a href="#">[Renew]</a> <a href="#">[Prescribe]</a> <a href="#">[Stop]</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>omeprazole</b> (Capsule, Delayed Release(E.C.) 10 mg) 1 capsule once a day Disp. 30 Rfl #3 (last: 02/04/2007) Actions: <a href="#">[Renew]</a> <a href="#">[Prescribe]</a> <a href="#">[Stop]</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tetracycline HCl</b> (Cap 500 MG) 2 capsule every twelve hours Disp. Rfl #3 Actions: <a href="#">[Renew]</a> <a href="#">[Prescribe]</a> <a href="#">[Stop]</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Z-Loft (sertraline)</b> (Tablet 50 mg) 1 tablet once a day Disp. 90 Rfl #3 (last: 02/04/2007) Actions: <a href="#">[Renew]</a> <a href="#">[Prescribe]</a> <a href="#">[Stop]</a>

If your patient is on a number of chronic medications, you can quickly renew many scripts at one time by clicking on the check boxes and then clicking the [\[Renew Selected\]](#) link.

## Is your system ‘Qualified’?

### E-Prescribing systems must meet Medicare standards for incentives

Beginning in 2009, and during the next four years, Medicare will provide incentive payments to eligible professionals who are successful electronic prescribers as defined in the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA). Eligible professionals will receive a 2 percent incentive payment in 2009 and 2010; a 1 percent incentive payment in 2011 and 2012; and a 0.5 percent incentive payment in 2013.

To be considered “qualified,” an e-Prescribing vendor must comply with Medicare Part D 2009 e-Prescribing standards, which require that vendors are able to perform the following tasks:

- Generate a complete and active medication list from pharmacies and benefit managers
- Select medications, transmit prescriptions electronically and perform alerts (including automated prompts that offer information on the drug being prescribed, potential inappropriate dose or route of administration, drug-drug interactions, allergy concerns, and warnings/cautions).
- Provide information on lower-cost alternatives
- Provide formulary or tiered formulary information, patient eligibility, and authorization requirements from the patient’s drug plan

### How scripts are sent determines ‘qualified’ e-Prescribing

Prescriptions must be sent electronically. If the network converts the electronic prescription into a fax because the pharmacy can’t get electronic faxes, this counts as e-Prescribing.

If the e-Prescribing system is only capable of sending a fax directly from the e-Prescribing system to the pharmacy, the system isn’t a qualified e-Prescribing system.

Detailed system requirements are in Measure #125 at [www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri). Select *e-Prescribing Incentive Program*.

### Resources

For more information on e-Prescribing, review “A Clinician’s Guide to Electronic Prescribing” at [www.ehealthinitiative.org](http://www.ehealthinitiative.org). This publication contains a buyer’s guide to help you compare e-Prescribing systems.

For information on how e-Prescribing works or how to choose a system go to [www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/erx/home.shtml](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/erx/home.shtml).