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Provider Alert

To: Sharp Health Plan Providers and Provider Office Staff
From: Sharp Health Plan
Date: December 10, 2021
Subject: Electronic Prescribing Mandate – Effective January 1, 2022

Dear Provider Partner,

This notice is to inform you of the electronic prescribing mandate that will go into effect beginning on January 1, 2022, as outlined in [Assembly Bill 2789](#). **This bill indicates that all California health care practitioners who are authorized to prescribe will be required to issue prescriptions electronically for both controlled and non-controlled substances.**

There are a few exemptions, as outlined in the AB 2789 which include:

- Controlled substances prescriptions for use by a patient who has a terminal illness.
- If electronic prescribing is not available as a result of a temporary technological or electrical error.
- The prescription is to be dispensed by a pharmacy located outside the state of California.
- The prescription is issued in a hospital emergency department or urgent care clinic and
 - The patient resides outside the state of California or
 - The patient resides outside the geographic area of the hospital or
 - The patient is homeless or indigent and does not have a preferred pharmacy or
 - The prescription is issued at a time when a patient's regular or preferred pharmacy is likely to be closed.
- The prescription is issued by a veterinarian.
- The prescription is for eyeglasses or contact lenses.
- The prescribing physician and the dispenser are the same entity.
- The prescribing physician reasonably determines that it would be impractical for the patient to receive controlled substances from an electronic prescription in a timely manner, at which the delay would have an adverse impact on the patient's medical condition.
- The prescription issued includes elements not covered by the most updated version of the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs' SCRIPT standard.

For more information about practice exemptions, enforcement and other details, please refer to the notification on the [California Medical Association](#) website. Please note that if an exception or exemption applies, the reason for the exception or exemption must be documented in the patient's medical record.

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As this mandate will soon go into effect, we encourage you take the actions necessary to prepare for this requirement. If you do not yet have electronic prescribing capabilities, the California Medical Association advises that you reach out to your electronic health records (EHR) software vendor for support.

Please note that Sharp Health Plan cannot provide technical support related to this state requirement. Additional details and information regarding the electronic prescribing mandate can be found at:

- <https://www.cmadoocs.org/newsroom/news/view/ArticleId/49517/Are-you-ready-for-California-s-electronic-prescribing-mandate-1>
- https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB2789

Thank you for your continued partnership in providing the best care possible to our members. If you have any questions, please contact us at provider.relations@sharp.com or 1-858-499-8330. We are available to assist you on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sincerely,



Yolanda Hunt-Boes, MBA, PMP, PCM
Manager, Network Management and Application Optimization