



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Acting Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 16, 2015

BRIAN LEE
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LAKE SUCCESS, NY 11042

Dear Prescriber:

On March 13, 2015, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature amended the Public Health Law and the Education Law to extend the implementation date for mandatory electronic prescribing for one year until March 27, 2016. This extension recognizes the challenges that some prescribers have faced in meeting the original implementation date, and provides additional time to fully implement electronic prescribing.

Prescribers are expected to use this additional time to become compliant with the requirement, including working with your software vendors to implement the additional security requirements needed for e-prescribing of controlled substances, and registering your certified software applications with the Department's Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE).

Although this amendment extends the effective date of mandated e-prescribing, electronic prescribing of both controlled and non-controlled substances is currently permissible in New York. Prescribers that are capable of electronically prescribing and pharmacies that are capable of accepting electronic prescriptions are encouraged to do so.

Due to the extension of the mandatory implementation date, the BNE will not be sending waiver request forms to prescribers at this time. More information related to waiver requests will be available on BNE's website in the future. For additional information regarding the March 27, 2016 implementation date, monitor BNE's webpage at:

http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/electronic_prescribing/

If you have any questions, please call 1-866-811-7957, option 1 or send an email to narcotic@health.ny.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anita L. Murray, R.Ph.
Assistant Director
Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement