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Collaborative Drug Therapy Management Use of Electronic Signature

Collaborative drug therapy management (CDTM) refers to the performance of clinical services by a pharmacist in a teaching hospital or general hospital, including any diagnostic center, treatment center, or hospital-based outpatient department as defined in section twenty-eight hundred one of the Public Health Law; or a nursing home with an on-site pharmacy staffed by a licensed pharmacist. The services must relate to the review, evaluation and management of drug therapy to a patient who is being treated by a physician for a specific disease or associated disease states. Qualified pharmacists may not engage in CDTM without specific approval from the New York State Education Department (SED).

The Electronic Signature and Records Act (ESRA) provides that, unless specifically provided otherwise by law, an electronic signature may be used by a person in lieu of a signature affixed by hand. An "electronic signature" is defined by New York State Technology Law §302(3) as an "electronic sound, symbol, or process, attached to or logically associated with an electronic record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record."

Accordingly, to practice CDTM, NYS Education Law §6801-a and 8 NYCRR §63.10, read in conjunction with ERSA, require, among other things:

- A written agreement between the pharmacist and a voluntarily participating physician in accordance with the policies, procedures, and protocols of the facility. This agreement may be signed electronically.
- Patient consent to the CDTM in writing. This consent, obtained from the patient or his/her authorized representative, may be made with the use of an electronic signature and must be noted on the patient's chart. However, in instances where an electronic signature is used to obtain CDTM consent, such consent must be obtained specifically for CDTM and cannot be incorporated in the general patient consent.

More information regarding CDTM is available here:
<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/pharm/pharmcdtm.htm>
