

# PractitionerUpdate

New York State Department of Health

Spring 2010

Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement

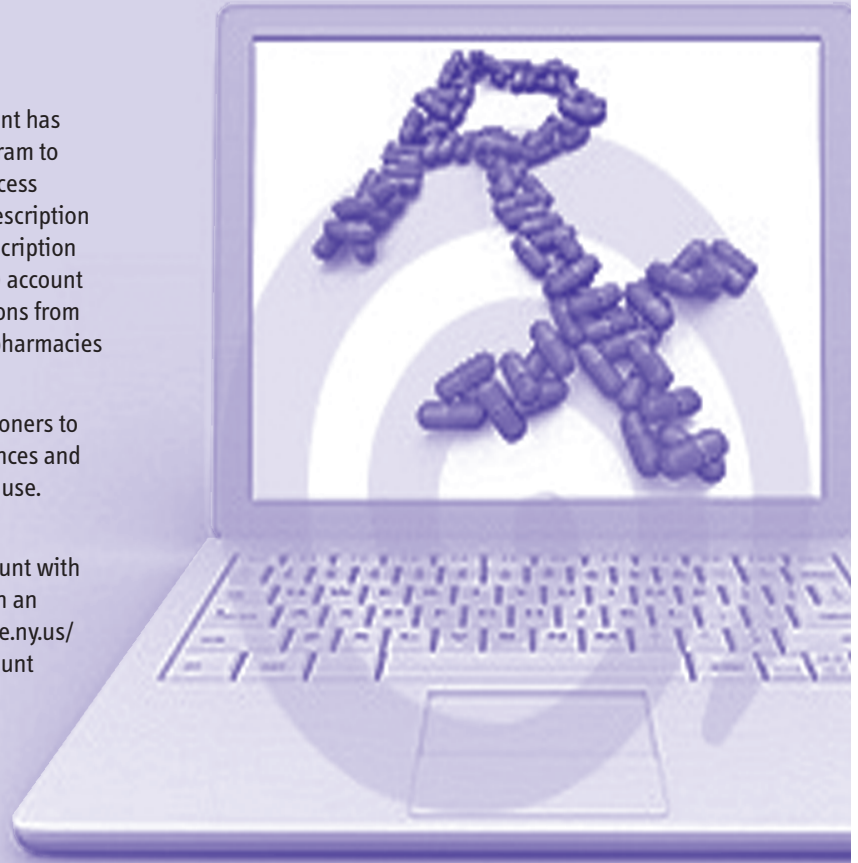
## Controlled Substances: Online Practitioner Notification Program

The Department of Health's Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement has implemented an automated Practitioner Notification Program to provide each New York State practitioner secure online access to certain of their patients' recent controlled substance prescription histories. Practitioners can view controlled substance prescription information through their Health Commerce System (HCS) account if the patient has received controlled substance prescriptions from two or more practitioners and filled them at two or more pharmacies during the previous calendar month.

Direct, secure access to this information will allow practitioners to better evaluate patients' treatment with controlled substances and determine whether there may be abuse or non-legitimate use.

In order to use the new automated system, prescribers of controlled substances must have or establish an HCS account with the Department of Health. Instructions on how to establish an account are available at: <https://hcsteamwork1.health.state.ny.us/pub/top.html>. Practitioners who already have an HCS account can use it to access the new automated system.

**For further information, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions document posted online or call the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement at 1-866-811-7957 (Option 4).**



## Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances

The March 31, 2010 *Federal Register* contained a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Interim Final Rule with Request for Comment regarding Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances. The DEA has revised its regulations to provide practitioners with the option of writing prescriptions for controlled substances electronically. The regulations also permit pharmacies

to receive, dispense and archive these electronic prescriptions. The DEA rule became effective June 1, 2010.

In anticipation of adoption of the DEA final rule, the Department of Health has been working to update its regulations to allow for electronic prescribing of controlled substances in New York State. However, until such time as the corresponding State regulations are adopted, **electronic prescribing of controlled substances is not permissible in New**

**York State.** (Please also note that electronic prescribing of hypodermic needles and syringes is also not permissible at this time).

Under current parameters established by the New York State Board of Pharmacy, prescriptions for non-controlled substances may continue to be transmitted to a pharmacy. At this time, an Official Prescription is not utilized for electronic prescribing of non-controlled substances and a serial number is not needed.



**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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