

Electronic Prescribing & Real-Time Prescription Benefit

Revised Electronic Prescribing Certification Criterion

With electronic prescribing, or “e-Prescribing,” health care providers can enter prescription information into a computer device – like a tablet, laptop, or desktop computer – and securely transmit the prescription to pharmacies. When a pharmacy receives a request, it can begin filling the medication right away.

ONC proposes to incorporate National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) SCRIPT standard version 2023011 in an updated version of the electronic prescribing criterion in § 170.315(b)(3). Under this proposal, health IT developers may maintain health IT certification conformance with the current version of the criterion using NCPDP SCRIPT standard version 2017071 for the time period up to and including December 31, 2027. We propose that by January 1, 2028 a health IT developer of a Health IT Module certified to the criterion in § 170.315(b)(3) must update the Health IT Module to use the NCPDP SCRIPT standard version 2023011 and provide that update to their customers in order to maintain certification of the Health IT Module. We also propose a series of updates to the transactions included in § 170.315(b)(3)(ii) including removing transactions currently identified as optional for the certification criterion.

New Real-Time Prescription Benefit Criterion

Real-time prescription benefit tools empower providers and their patients to compare the patient-specific cost of a drug to the cost of a suitable alternative, compare prescription costs at different pharmacies, view information about out-of-pocket costs, and learn whether prior authorization for a specific drug is required. In order to implement section 119(b)(3) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. 116–260), we propose to establish a real-time prescription benefit certification criterion in § 170.315(b)(4) based on the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) Real-Time Prescription Benefit (RTPB) standard version 13. We also propose to include this certification criterion in the Base EHR definition in § 170.102.



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