E-PRESCRIBING - Q&A FOR PHARMACIES

E-Prescribing is available to healthcare providers in your area through the DIS Portal. Prescribers are viewing and updating patient profiles including issuing e-Prescriptions.

Is an e-Prescription a valid prescription in Nova Scotia?

Yes, the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists *Standards of Practice: General Pharmacy Practice* define a **valid e-prescription** as one originating from the DIS. Please refer to their website (www.nspharmacists.ca) for more information.

Can prescriptions for NSPMP monitored drugs be e-Prescribed?

Yes, the DIS Program has worked with the NSPMP and e-Prescriptions for monitored drugs are permitted. These prescriptions do not have to be written on duplicate pads.

Will prescribers be required to e-Prescribe? Are only certain types of prescribers eligible for e-Prescribing?

Access to e-Prescribing is voluntary, and prescribers can choose whether or not they wish to e-Prescribe. It is simply another option for prescribers in addition to written, verbal or faxed prescriptions.

Any health care provider who has legislated authority is eligible to e-Prescribe. In Nova Scotia, some examples include physicians, nurse practitioners, dentists and optometrists.

How will I know a patient has an e-Prescription to be filled?

Either the patient or prescriber will let you know that their prescriber has sent an e-Prescription to the DIS.

How do I fill an e-Prescription?

Pharmacy staff will have to access the patient record in the DIS and retrieve the e-Prescription from the patient profile. Once it is retrieved, it can be filled. Once your pharmacy retrieves the prescription, it cannot be accessed by another pharmacy.

The steps required to fill an e-Prescription are specific to your pharmacy software system. Please refer to your **user manual** for detailed instructions. You can also contact your pharmacy service desk or software provider for assistance.

Please ensure that all pharmacy staff are familiar with this process.

Where can I get more information about the DIS?

For more information about the DIS, please visit our website http://novascotia.ca/dhw/ehealth/dis/

For technical support and questions about e-Prescribing please follow your normal support process or consult your software vendor's user guide.