

EL PASO FIRST

Health Plans, inc.

Memo

To: All Providers

From: El Paso First Health Plans

Date: February 5, 2016

Re: Texas Medicaid Physicians can Electronically Prescribe Controlled Substances (EPCS)

The DEA allows and encourages the use of electronic prescribing of controlled substances (EPCS) as a modern technology to reduce medication errors and fraud by maintaining a closed system of controls on controlled substances. Despite its availability since 2010, and an over-all increase in electronic prescribing, very few Texas clinicians have adopted its use for controlled substances. While 85% of Texas pharmacies have technology in place to process EPCS, only 2.5% of Texas prescribers are EPCS enabled. This leaves Texas behind the 4.1% national average for prescriber readiness. Being that schedule II-V prescriptions account for 12% of all drug claims, Texas Medicaid supports the use of EPCS and the associated education of prescribers on EPCS utility.

To help prescribers get started in the practice setting, please see the HHSC endorsed material available at the following link <http://getepcs.com/>

If you have any questions please contact Provider Relations at 1-915-532-3778 x1507.