

Tennessee Falls in ePrescribing Ranking for 2007

Tennessee ranked 29th in the nation in ePrescribing in 2007, down from 16th nationally the previous year.

That according to the third annual nationwide review and audit of ePrescribing activity conducted by The National Association of Chain Drug Stores, the National Community Pharmacists Association and SureScripts (an organization founded by the pharmacy industry to operate the Pharmacy Health Information Exchange, which facilitates the transmission of prescription information between physicians and pharmacists).

The national rankings were announced in conjunction with the Safe-RX Awards on March 4, 2008, given to the top 10 ePrescribing states (in order): Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Nevada, Delaware, Michigan, Maryland, North Carolina, Arizona, Connecticut and Washington.

In an effort to help states improve their ranking, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) are launching a nationwide program designed to boost adoption and utilization of e-prescribing technology. Created in conjunction with The Center for Improving Medication Management (www.TheCIMM.org), the program aims to help an estimated 150,000 prescribers located throughout the United States that are currently using e-prescribing and electronic medical record software to fax prescriptions to pharmacies. Starting January 1, 2009, all computer-generated prescriptions covered by the Medicare Part D program must be transmitted electronically and not via fax. The "Get Connected" program is an opportunity to help these physicians make the transition from fax to electronic prescribing before the deadline arrives.

For more information about how to start prescribing electronically, physicians and practice management professionals can go to www.GetRxConnected.com. The site includes an online tool designed to help physicians determine whether their practices already possess the technology needed to establish a direct, two-way, computer-to-computer connection with their local pharmacies.

Physicians can also call with questions about the assessment or about electronic prescribing in general: 1-866-RxReady (1-866-797-3239).

For more information about ePrescribing and the Safe-Rx Awards, please visit www.surescripts.com/Safe-Rx.