

# ePrescribing: What's Left and What's Next?

**MODERATOR: Tony Schueth, M.S.**  
CEO and managing partner  
Point-of-Care Partners, LLC

**Panel Discussion**  
**November 11**



# Objectives

Upon successful completion of this presentation, the attendees will be able to:

1. Describe the frequency and types of ePrescription problems requiring pharmacy-prescriber interactions and overall how ePrescribing affects medication error rates;
2. Develop a strategy to increase prescriber use of EPCS;
3. Understand how the SCRIPT standard works to support ePA and its adoption status;

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## Objectives continued

4. Summarize why the availability and usefulness of formulary data is limited and how these limitations affect ePrescribing and medication adherence;
5. Define requirements for accepting prescriptions from long-term care facilities; and
6. Understand the value and process for ePrescribing of specialty medications.



# Agenda

- Meet the panelists
- A look at the road so far
- A closer look at the path
- Unintended consequences of ePrescribing
- Long-term care: lessons learned, best practices and gaps
- Pillars of specialty ePrescribing
- Collaboration case study: driving EPCS success
- Other opportunities & post-test

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## Meet the panelists

- **Andrew Mac**, R.Ph., vice president, pharmacy operations, Sav-On Drugs and Sav-On LTC Pharmacy Services
- **Louis Hyman**, executive vice president, chief technology officer, eHealth Solutions
- **Zoë Barry**, founder and CEO, ZappRx
- **Melissa Kotrys**, MPH, CEO, Arizona Health-eConnection, CEO, Health Information Network of Arizona

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## Accreditation Statement

The Institute for Wellness and Education is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education. Attendees who participate in the interactive portion and submit the completed evaluation form at the conclusion of the program will have credit for 1.75 hours of continuing pharmacy education (0.17 CEU(s)) uploaded to CPE Monitor within 60 days after the program date.

ACPE program numbers are:

0459-0000-14-094-L04-P & 0459-0000-14-094-L04-T



# The Road to ePrescribing

## Adoption, Gaps & Hazards

**Tony Schueth**

CEO & Managing Partner

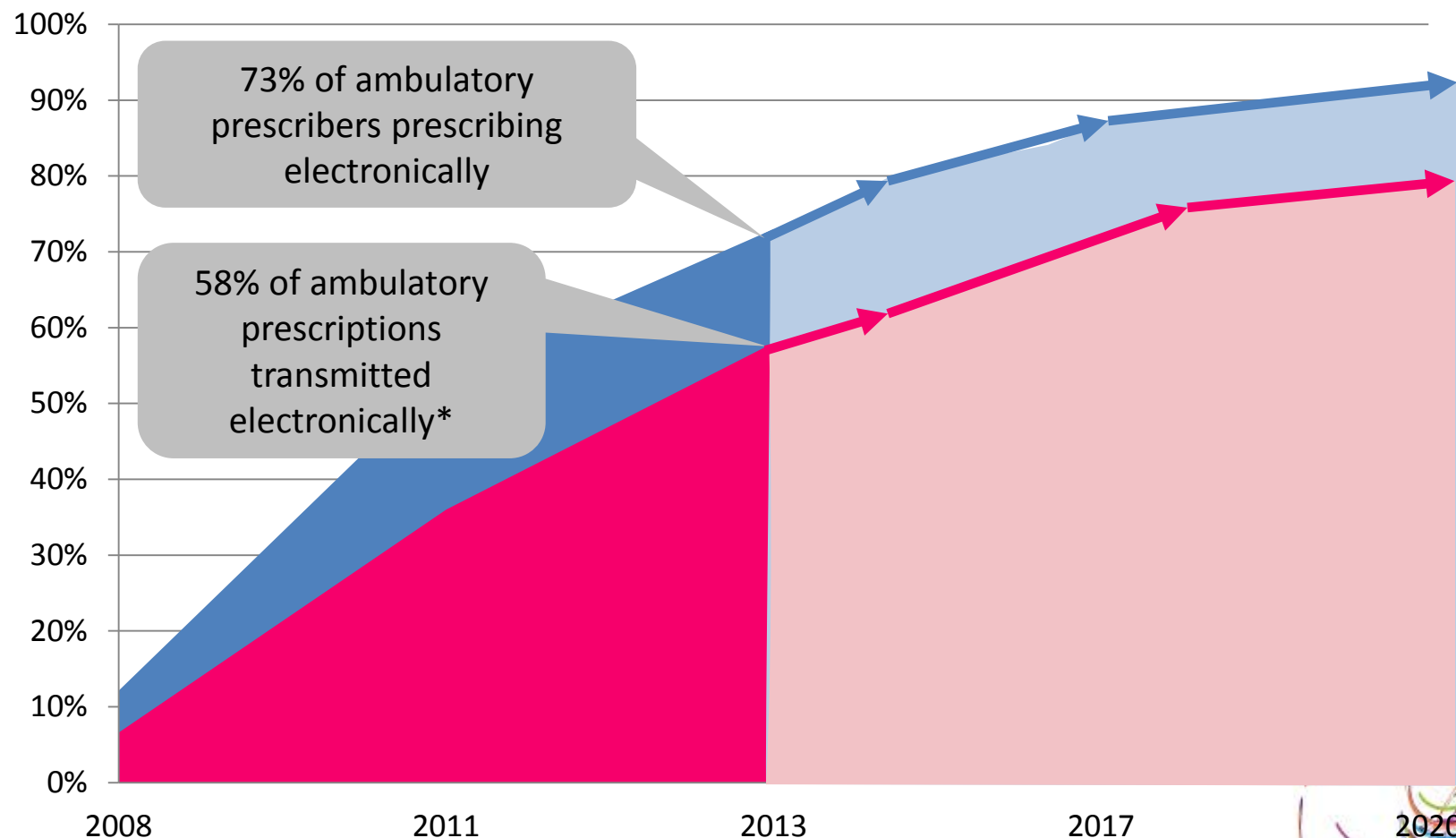
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# ePrescribing Today



\*Excludes EPCS prescriptions Source: Surescripts 2013 National Progress Report and SafeRx Rankings



# A look at the road so far

- 1977:** Personal computers introduced
- Late 1980's:** First ePrescribing solution for VA
- 1997:** NCPDP SCRIPT standard published
- 2001:** Surescripts formed
- 2003:** MMA
- 2007:** NEPSI Launched
- 2008:** MIPPA
- 2008:** Surescripts and RxHub merged
- 2009:** ARRA
- 2010:** EPCS IFR
- 2015:** I-STOP Deadline



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# A closer look at the path and possible hazards



**Unintended consequences** of ePrescribing are causing challenges in pharmacies and bumps in the road.



**Long-term care** continues to be a lane under construction with gaps that should be addressed, but there are lessons learned and best practices.

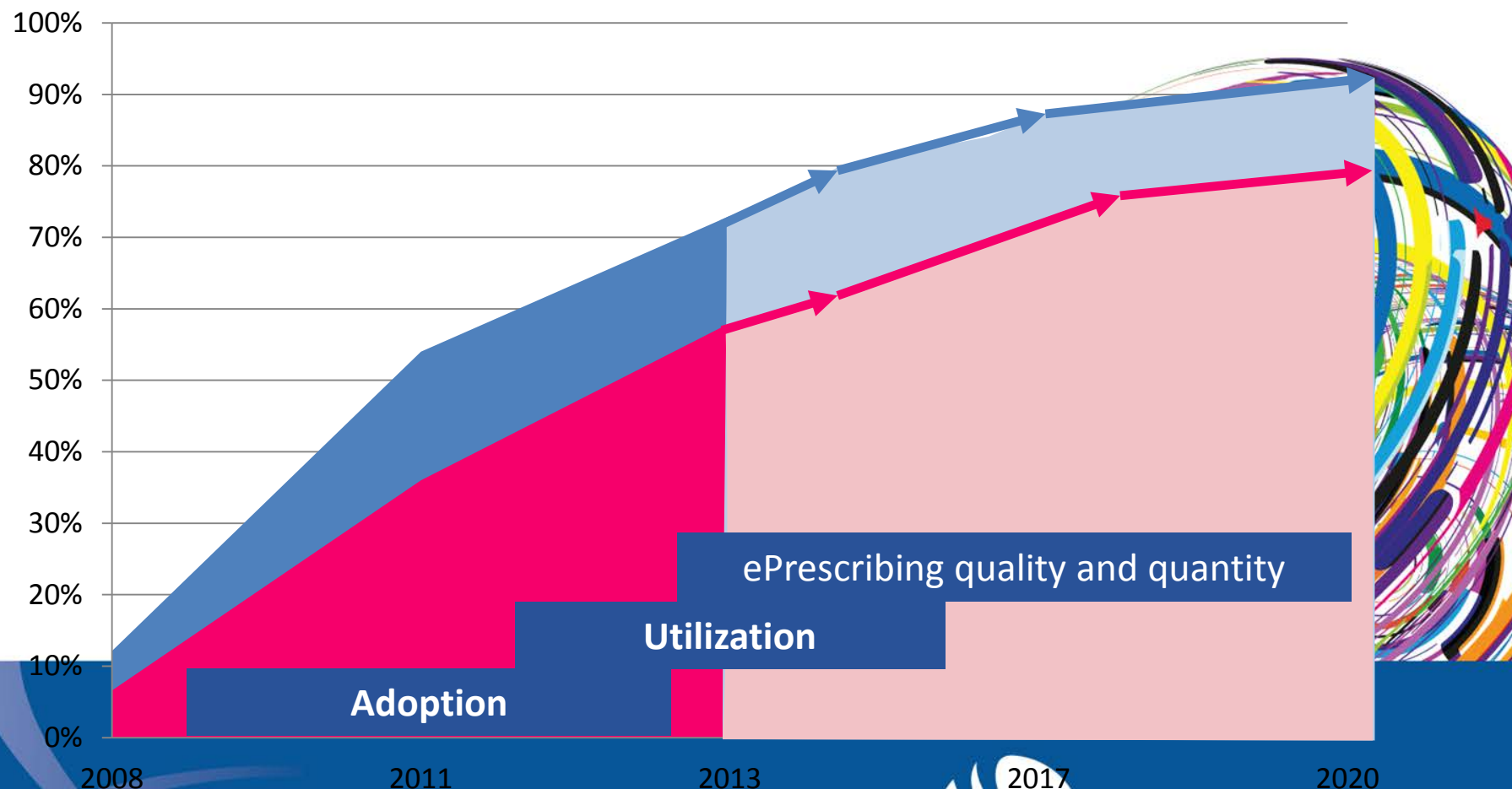


**Specialty medications** continues to evolve through three pillars (doctors, pharmacy and patients). Watch ahead!



**EPCS** is in the slow lane currently. Will explore the lessons learned in this area.

**As ePrescribing increases over the next decade, the focus will shift from adoption to utilization to information quality & quantity**



\*Excludes EPCS prescriptions Source: Surescripts 2013 National Progress Report and SafeRx Rankings



# Unintended Consequences of ePrescribing: Prescribing Error Log Pilot Study: Results

**Andrew Mac, R.Ph.**

Vice President, Pharmacy Operations, Sav-On  
Drugs and Sav-On LTC Pharmacy Services  
[andrew@savondrugs.com](mailto:andrew@savondrugs.com)



# Background

- Electronic prescribing is the predominant form of prescription received in community pharmacies
- Early claims-based studies indicated a decrease in Rx errors with e-prescribing; later studies showed an increase. E-prescribing reduced some types of prescribing errors but caused other types
- Little is known about errors encountered at the pharmacy or the potential impact of such errors on patient outcomes



# Objectives and Rationale

## Objective

- Document prescription problems that require pharmacy staff to call medical office staff

## Rationale

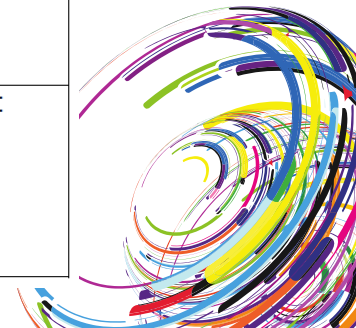
- Prescription problems that require calls from pharmacies to prescribers represent additional work on the part of both the pharmacy and the prescriber's office (or payer)
- It is important to determine how frequently such problems occur and to assess the potential for patient harm so as to develop policies and procedures to minimize their occurrence



# Prescription Problem Log

Date: _____ / _____ /2012
Time problem detected: _____ : _____
Handled by: (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacist <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy technician <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy Intern
Prescription type:  <input type="checkbox"/> e-Rx <input type="checkbox"/> non e-Rx  _____ <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Refill <input type="checkbox"/> Voided
Drug name and strength:
Description of problem (choose all that apply):  <input type="checkbox"/> Wrong drug NAME <input type="checkbox"/> Wrong/inadequate DOSE/Strength <input type="checkbox"/> Wrong FORMULATION <input type="checkbox"/> Formulation/dosage too COSTLY  <input type="checkbox"/> DUPLICATE conflicting SIG <input type="checkbox"/> SIG and write-in INSTRUCTIONS differ <input type="checkbox"/> SIG requires clarification (other)  <input type="checkbox"/> REFILL related problem <input type="checkbox"/> Wrong QUANTITY  <input type="checkbox"/> CONTROLLED substance e-prescribed

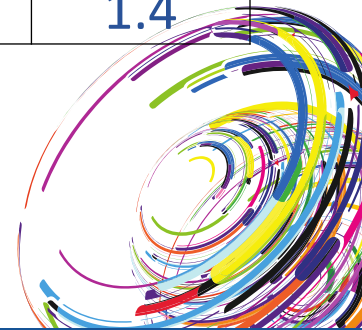
<input type="checkbox"/> Rx NOT AVAILABLE at pharmacy: <input type="checkbox"/> Medical office has not yet sent Rx <input type="checkbox"/> Rx appears to be "lost" in the system  <input type="checkbox"/> ILLEGIBLE handwriting <input type="checkbox"/> Rx information INCOMPLETE (e.g. date, DEA#) <input type="checkbox"/> FORMULARY/coverage Issue  <input type="checkbox"/> Potential drug INTERACTION <input type="checkbox"/> Other problem (please describe):
Time problem resolved:  Date: _____ / _____ /2012 Time: _____ : _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Not resolved
Potential level of patient harm if problem not resolved: <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Severe
Additional comments concerning this Rx problem:





# Problems Logs Completed Per 100 New Prescriptions Dispensed

	Total New Prescriptions		Logs Completed		Rate per 100 Rxs	
	E-Rx	Paper-Rx	E-Rx	Paper-Rx	E-Rx	Paper-Rx
All Locations	741	900	32	32	4.3	3.6
Pharmacy 1	348	273	9	10	2.6	3.7
Pharmacy 2	65	121	3	3	4.6	2.5
Pharmacy 3	55	148	8	9	14.5	6.1
Pharmacy 4	139	148	9	7	6.5	4.7
Pharmacy 5	134	210	3	3	2.2	1.4



# Descriptive Results

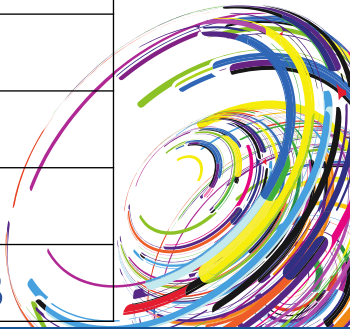
	n	%
Problem solved by pharmacist, not technician	59	94.7%
Problem resolved during study period	54	88.5%
Problems resolved same day	51	79.7%
Median time to resolve (minutes)	50	12.5



# Summary of Problems Reported

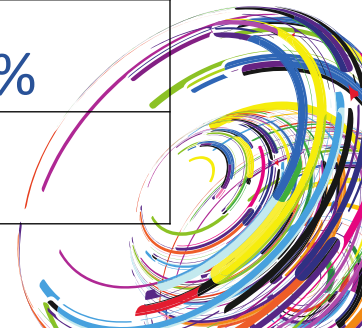
(75 problems reported on 64 logs)

Problem Reported	e-RX	non-E-Rx	Total
Wrong quantity	9	2	11
SIG requires clarification	3	7	10
Potential drug interaction	7	2	9
Illegible handwriting	0	7	7
Wrong dose/strength	2	4	6
Formulary/coverage issue	2	4	6
Too costly	2	3	5
Med office yet to send	4	0	4
Rx info incomplete	0	2	2
Wrong drug name	0	2	2
Other problems mentioned once	6	7	13



# Potential Harm from Rx Problem

	Percent of Cases (n=64)	
	E-Rx	Paper-Rx
None	50.0%	51.7%
Minimal	23.3%	37.9%
Moderate	10.0%	10.3%
Severe	16.7%	0.0%
Missing	5/64 (7.8%)	



# Types of Problems with E-Rx

- Multiple unique problems; no predominant error
- Four categories of problems
  - Pick-list errors
  - Transmission confusion
  - Formulary/reimbursement concerns
  - Potential drug interactions



# E-Rx vs. Paper-Rx Problems

- Illegible prescriptions vs. pick-list problems
  - Patient name
  - Medication name
  - Strength
  - Instructions
  - Quantity



# Possible Solutions

- Perform final prescription check at medical office before sending
- Give Rx information to patient
- Place checklist for error prevention at input site
- Encourage use of formulary and drug interaction alerts
- Share best practices for preventing problems between medical offices and pharmacies
- Create mechanism for efficient correction of obvious mistakes by pharmacist





# Long Term Post Acute Care and Electronic Prescribing: Why am I so misunderstood?

**Louis E. Hyman**

Chief Technology Officer

SigmaCare

lhyman@sigmacare.com



# LTPAC Agenda

- LTPAC – The land that time forgot
- There should be more hubbub about lack of a widely used LTPAC hub
- If all you have is an ambulatory or acute care hammer, the world is not a nail – The LTPAC differences and complexities
- Now what?

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# Electronic Prescribing Timeline and LTPAC

June 23, 2006

## NCPDP SCRIPT v5.0 Standard

- By this date, all electronic transmission of orders or prescription details by hospitals and medical practices must utilize the NCPDP SCRIPT v5.0 standard.

June 1, 2010

## DEA Interim Final Rule for Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances (EPCS)

- Practitioners have the option of writing prescriptions for controlled substances electronically if the state approves it.
- Pharmacies, hospitals, and practitioners have ability to use modern technology for controlled substance prescriptions while maintaining the closed system of controls on controlled substances.

November 1, 2014

## NCPDP SCRIPT v10.6 Standard

- By this date, LTC exemption ended and all electronic transmission of orders or prescription details must utilize the NCPDP SCRIPT v10.6 standard (42 CFR §423.160).

March 27, 2015

## NYS eRX Mandate

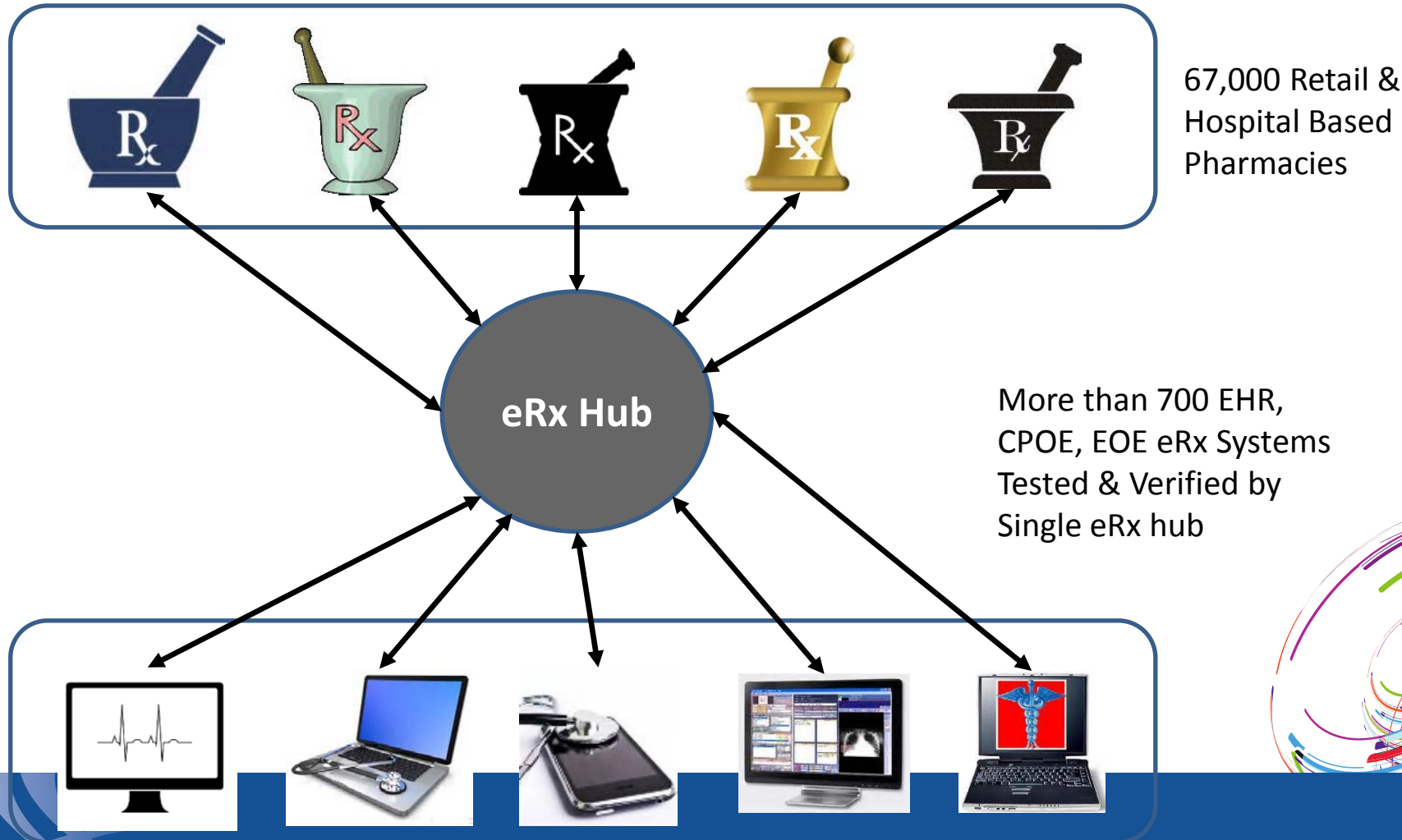
- By this date, all orders for controlled and non controlled substances are to be transmitted electronically as per NY Public Health Law 281.

LTPAC Exemption



# eRx in Ambulatory & Acute Care Settings

## Highly Scalable Technology Model

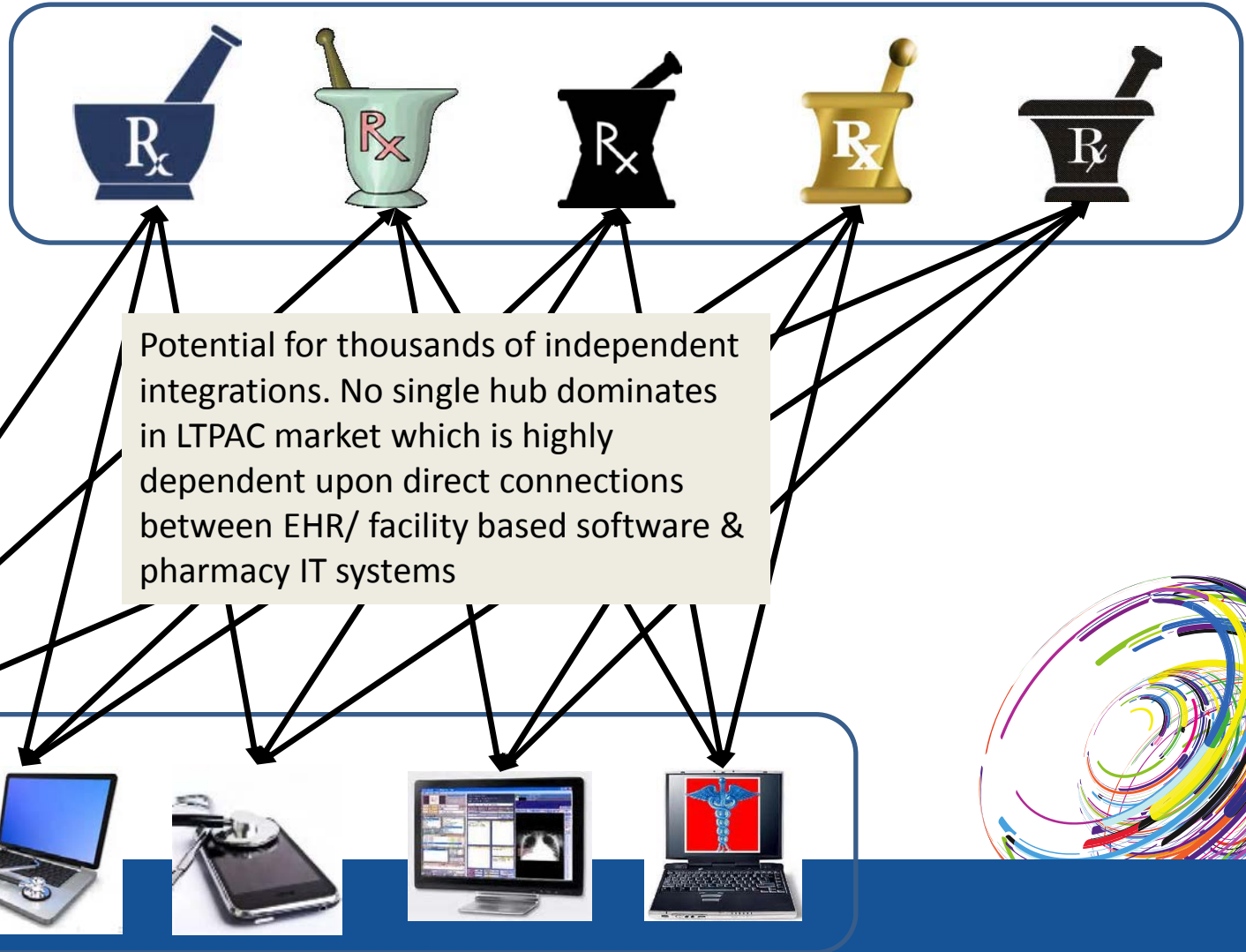


# eRx in LTPAC Settings

## Less Scalable Technology Model

More than 2,000 LTC  
Pharmacies

More than 50 EHR/  
EMR/ eMAR/ other  
software products in  
use by thousands of  
LTPAC settings



# What Makes LTPAC Different?

Area	Ambulatory	LTPAC
Pharmacy Relationship	<b>Open System</b> – Typically the patient's preferred pharmacy.	<b>Closed System</b> – Facility has a relationship with a LTC vendor pharmacy which, for all intents and purposes, makes them an extension of the facility.
Medications	<b>Incomplete</b> – Various physicians, healthcare systems and means of acquiring medications (in plan / out of plan) leads to incomplete medication data for patient. Any one physician seldom takes responsibility for a comprehensive medication review. <b>(Episodic Care)</b>	<b>Complete</b> – Exhaustive assessment of care and orders is done upon admission and maintained throughout the patient's stay. The vast majority of all care is delivered within the facility with frequent medication reviews. <b>(Comprehensive Care)</b>

# What Makes LTPAC Different? *(cont.)*

Area	Ambulatory	LTPAC
<b>Eligibility and Benefits</b>	<b>Easily Accessible with EDI</b> – Via SureScripts provided that the transaction is done close to or on day of encounter.	<b>Burdensome</b> to Acquire and Maintain – Manual process for majority of patients and not yet understood by transaction vendors.
<b>“Formulary” (Preferred Medications / Alternatives)</b>	<b>Episodic, Commercial and Part B Focused</b> – Due to episodic nature of transaction, there are seldom clinical guidelines and protocols other than a plan formulary (preferred alternatives) to yield quality and cost-effective healthcare delivery.	<b>Comprehensive, Institutional and Clinical Best Practice Focused:</b> Pharmacies and facility medical directors collaborate on clinical guidelines which are combined with plan formulary and pharmacy inventory to form a facility/pharmacy “formulary”.



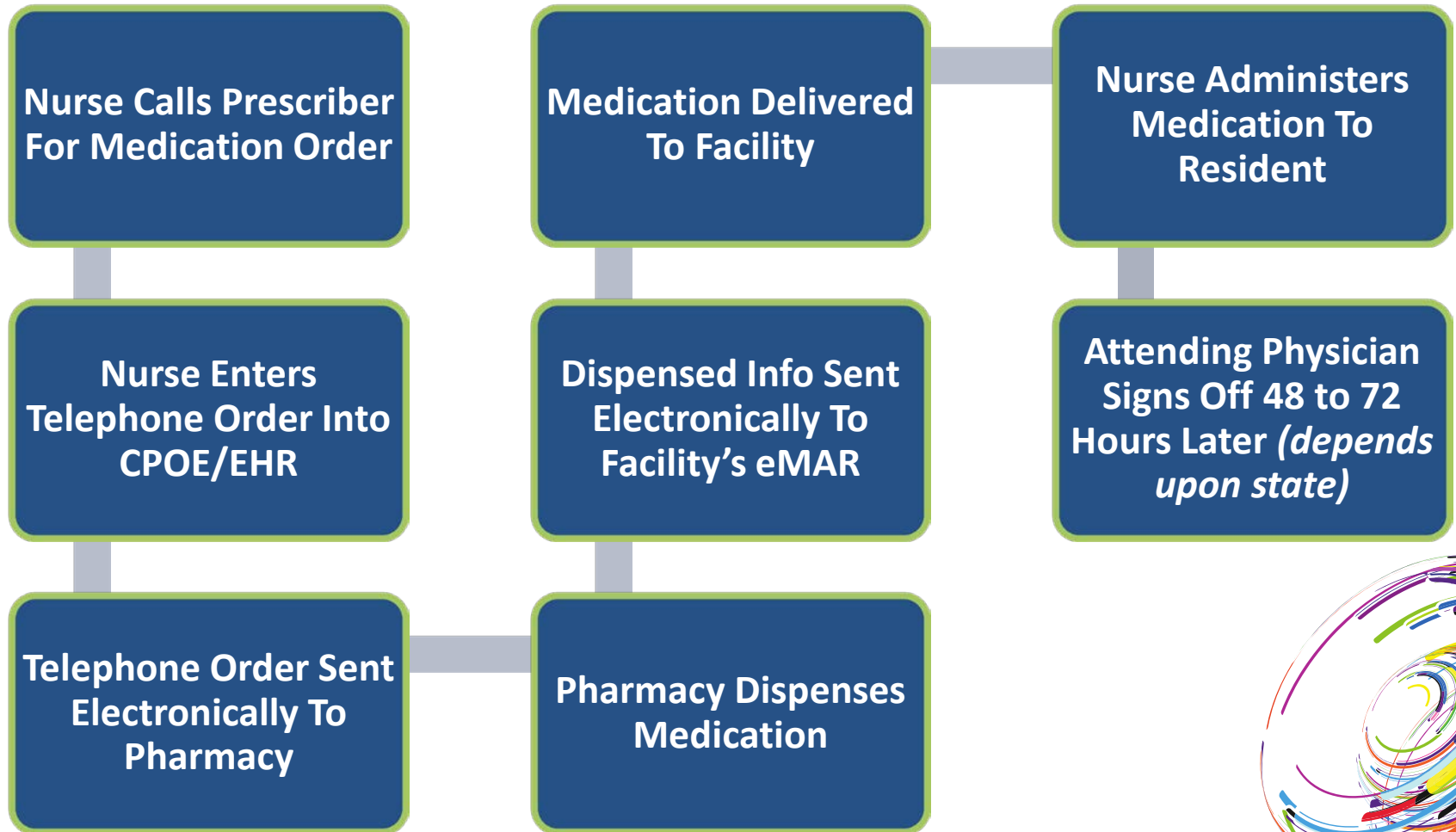
# What Makes LTPAC Different? *(cont.)*

## Other differences:

- IVs and compounds in hospitals are typically filled by the in-house pharmacy (closed environment) whereas these medications are filled by the outside vendor pharmacies for LTCPAC
- In LTPAC complex directions from the prescriber such as an adjustable dose or “sliding scale” for insulin easily exceeds the 140-character limit in NCPDP SCRIPT 10.6

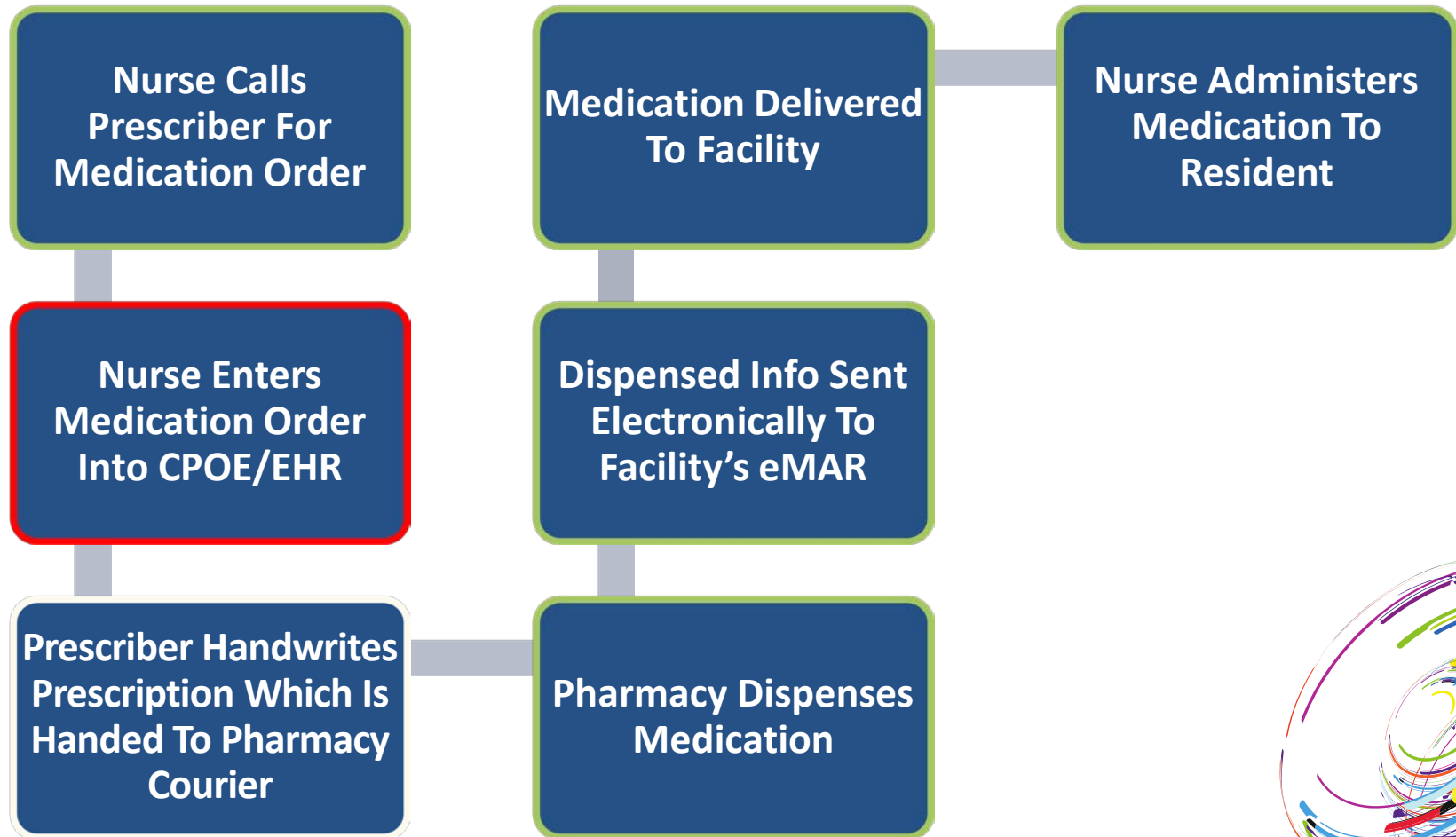


# LTPAC Workflow – Non-Controlled Substances: Current Long-Term Care Workflow with CPOE/EHR

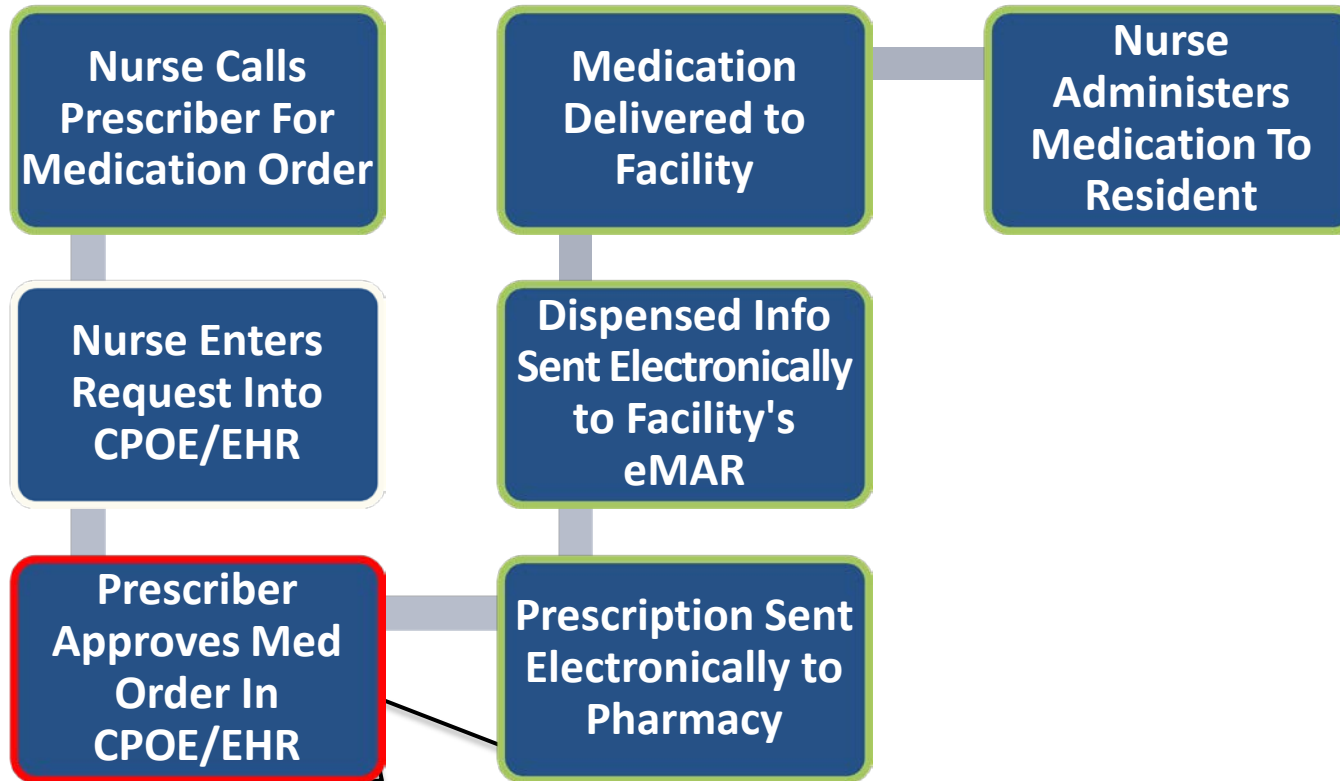


# LTPAC Workflow – Controlled Substances:

## Current Long-Term Care Workflow with CPOE/EHR



# LTPAC Workflow – NY eRX Mandate for Non-Controlled and Controlled Substances



## Workflow Impact

- No Telephone Orders
- No Attending Physician Sign-Off

## BUT

- Prescriber Must Approve Every Order Before Pharmacy Can Dispense

For controlled substances, prescriber must complete two factors of authentication: password & token



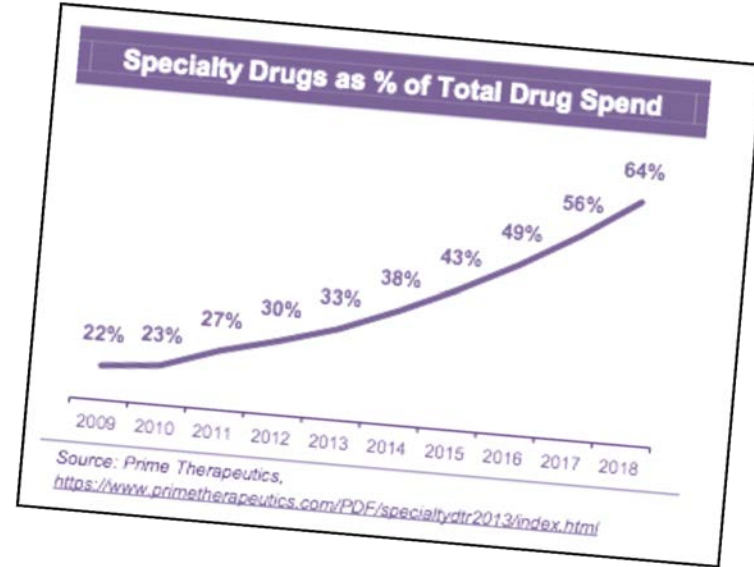
# What is Next for LTPAC?

- Continue to follow regulations in a manner which does not place patient safety at risk
- Continue working with the appropriate NCPDP workgroups to merge more LTPAC requirements into the SCRIPT standard
- Raise awareness to ensure that federal and state regulations are reasonable in their timelines and expectations
- Promote partnerships and tap leaders in other care settings to help accelerate electronic prescribing in LTPAC in a mutually beneficial approach



# Specialty drugs continue to grow

- US spending on specialty drugs is projected to grow **67% by the end of 2015**
- Specialty medications are the fastest-growing sector in the American healthcare system, expected to jump by two-thirds by 2015, and **account for half of all drug costs by 2018**
- Specialty medications can run at \$2,000 per month per patient; **those at the high-end cost upwards of \$100,000 to \$750,000 per year**



# But ...

0%

of doctors know  
the medication is  
specialty

30%

of eRxs contain  
diagnosis code

0%

of doctors know  
where the specialty  
Rx should be  
dispensed

95%

of specialty Rxs  
prescriber-  
pharmacy are faxed

50%-95%

specialty Rxs require  
Prior Authorization

95%

Opportunity for  
financial assistance  
for patients

5%-40%

Have REMS,  
MedGuides or REMS-  
Like Requirements





# Pillars of Specialty ePrescribing

## Driving Adoption

**Zoë Barry**

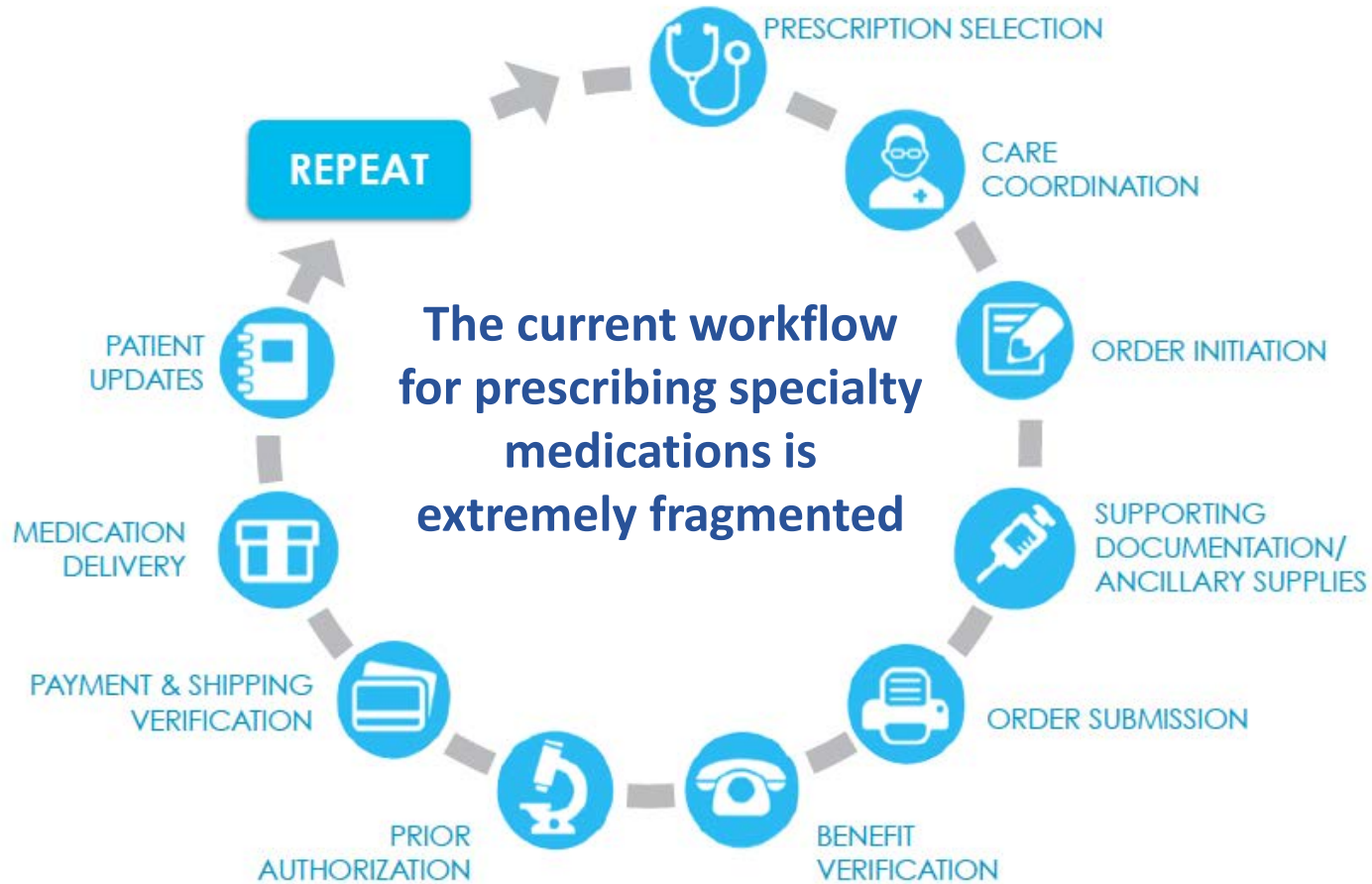
Founder and CEO

ZappRx

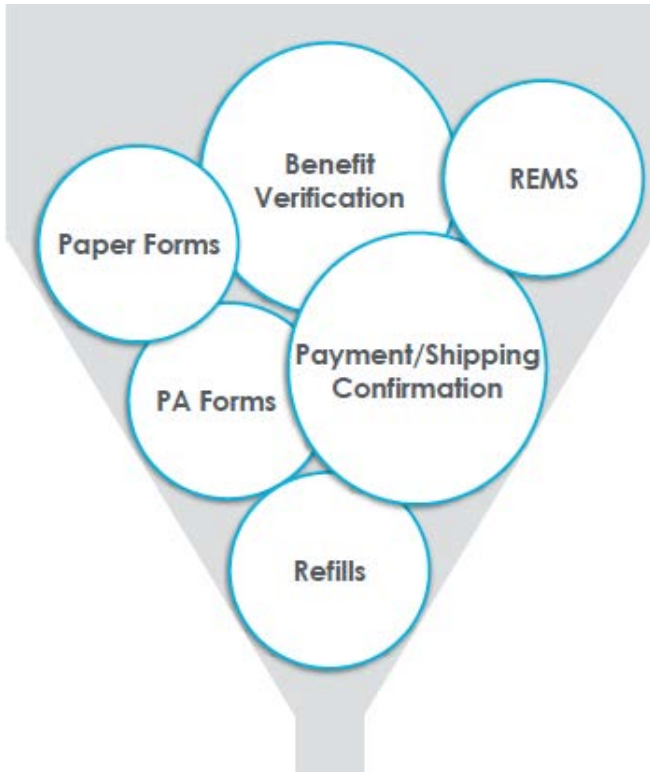
[zoe.barry@zapprx.com](mailto:zoe.barry@zapprx.com)



# ePrescribing & Specialty Medications



# Challenges in Specialty Prescribing



## Manual processes cause excess time delays\*

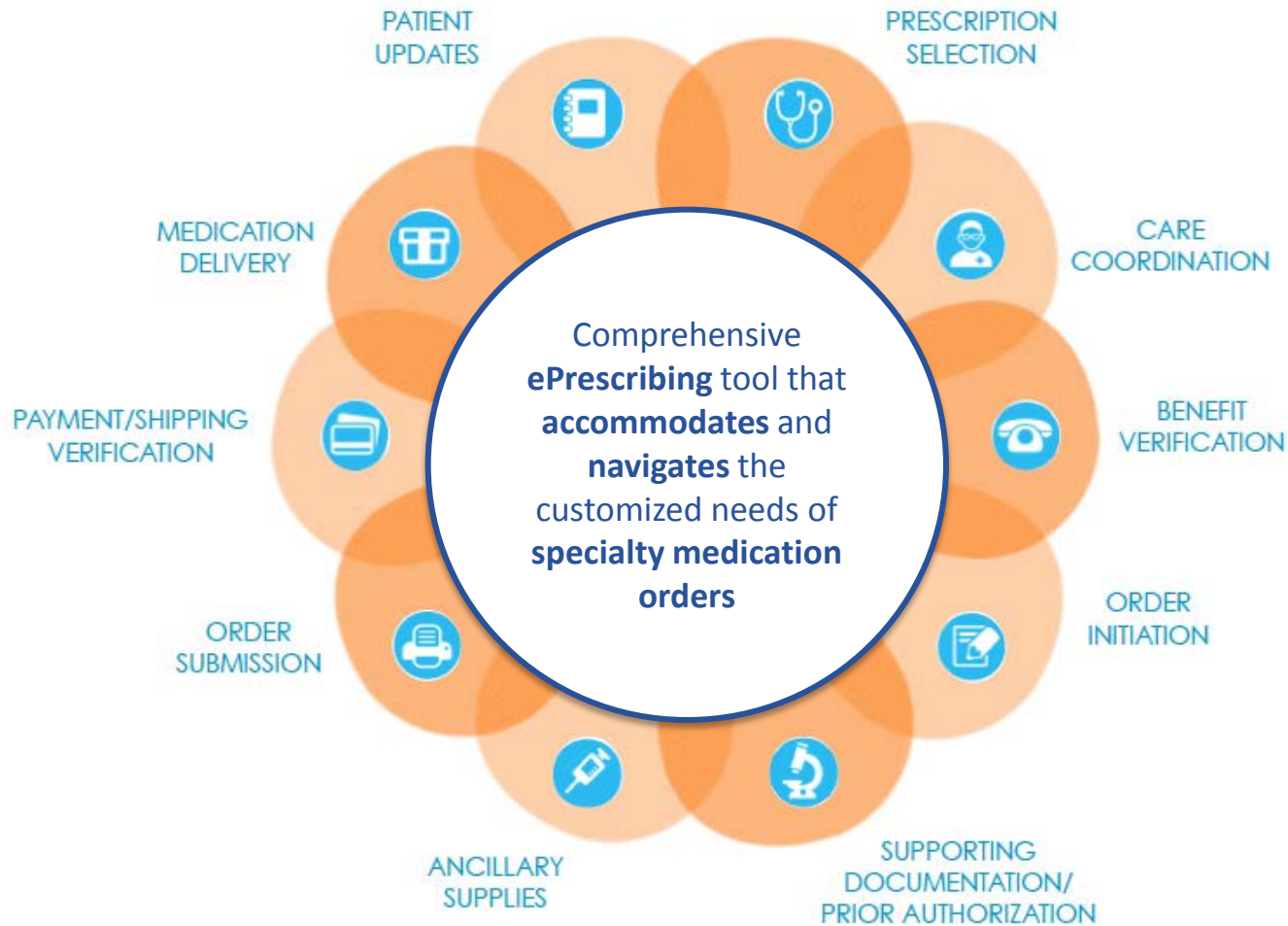
- Paper Forms: **19.2 minute** manual input
- Benefits Verification: **1 week** backlog; 60% accuracy
- PA Forms: **1 week** submission to results delay
- REMS: 1/3 orders delayed **7+ days** by patient sign-off
- Payment/Shipping: **2 day** delay for patient confirmation
- Refills: **10 day** average turnaround

Delays result in fewer patients served

**Bottlenecks accumulate** – It currently takes an average of **3-6 weeks** for a patient to receive their specialty medication after it is prescribed



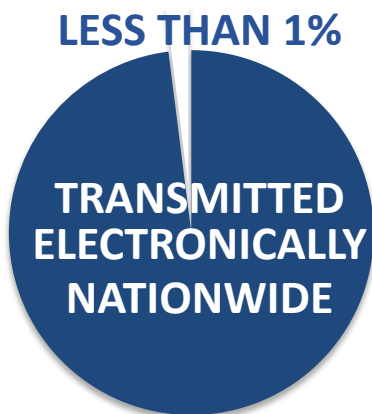
# Solutions for Specialty Prescribing



# EPCS Adoption - Nationwide

As of July 31, 2014, **570,000** EPCS prescriptions were transmitted via Surescripts\*

TRANSLATES  
TO ABOUT  
**500 M**  
OF THE  
**3.85 B**  
RETAIL  
PRESCRIPTIONS



14 of approx.  
**681**  
PRESCRIBER  
VENDORS  
CERTIFIED FOR EPCS

**31,000**  
OF  
**67,000**  
PHARMACY  
LOCATIONS  
ENABLED  
FOR EPCS

\* Surescripts EPCS Progress Update at the NCPDP Work Group Meeting, August 2014 and POCP Analysis



# Collaboration Case Study:

## Driving EPCS Success in Arizona

**Melissa Kotrys, MPH**

Chief Executive Officer

Arizona Health-e Connection

[melissa.kotrys@azhec.org](mailto:melissa.kotrys@azhec.org)



# Arizona EPCS Initiative

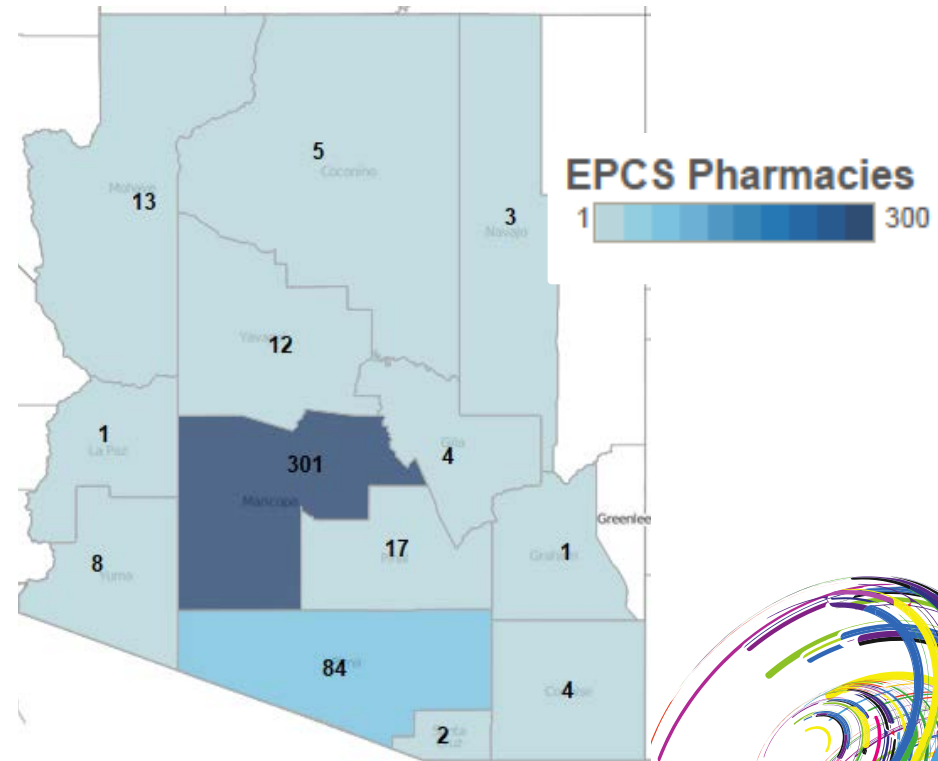
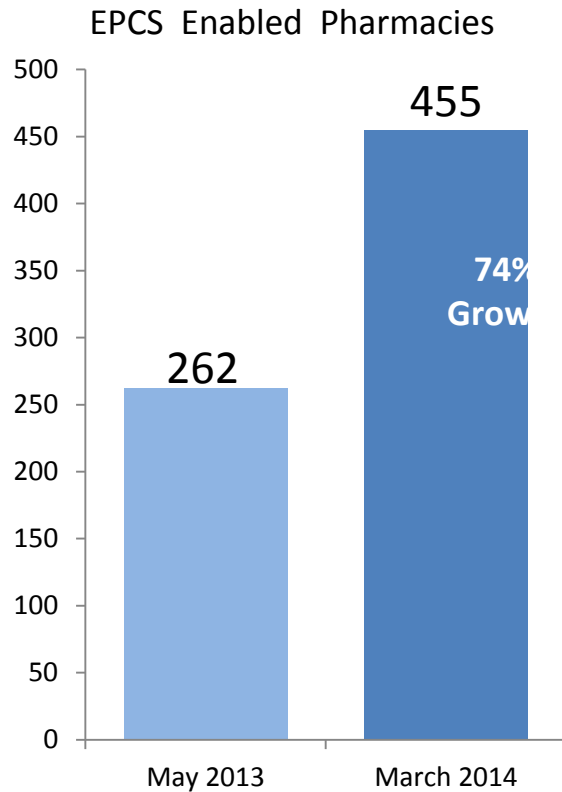
AzHeC established an advisory committee, conducted a needs assessment and implemented four key programs between May and December 2013

## **Key EPCS Program Strategies:**

- Provider and pharmacist focused education and outreach
- Encouraged pharmacy chains to get EPCS-enabled
- Worked collaboratively with EHR vendors to support EPCS
- EPCS incentive program to reimburse providers for their identity proofing costs

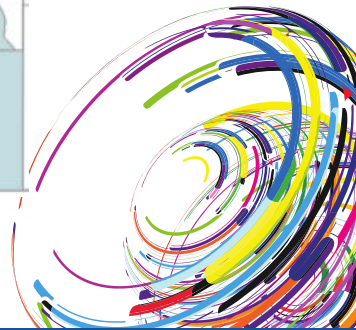


# 193 More Arizona Pharmacies Became EPCS Enabled Through the Campaign



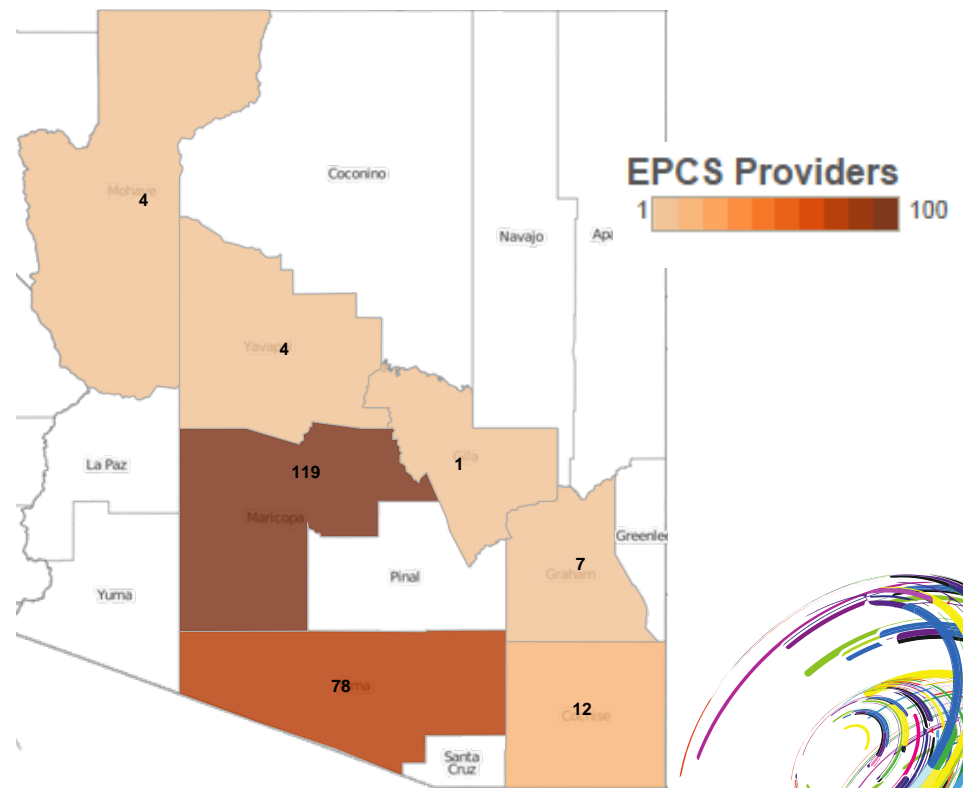
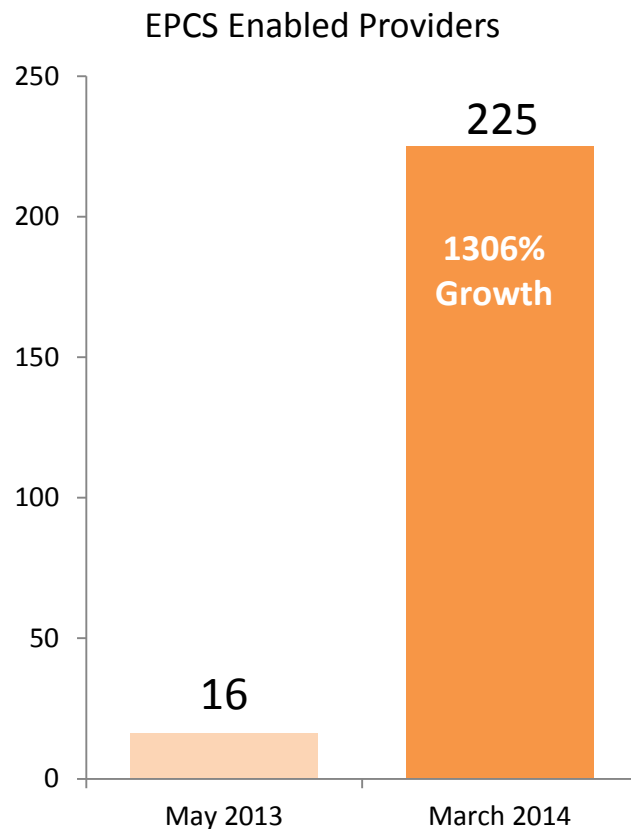
Arizona (45%) is above the national average of 40% EPCS enablement

March 2014 data





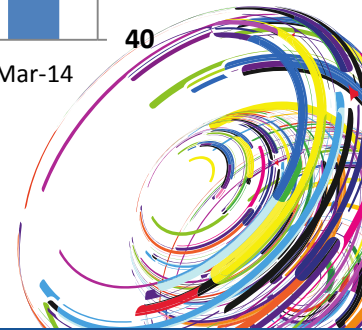
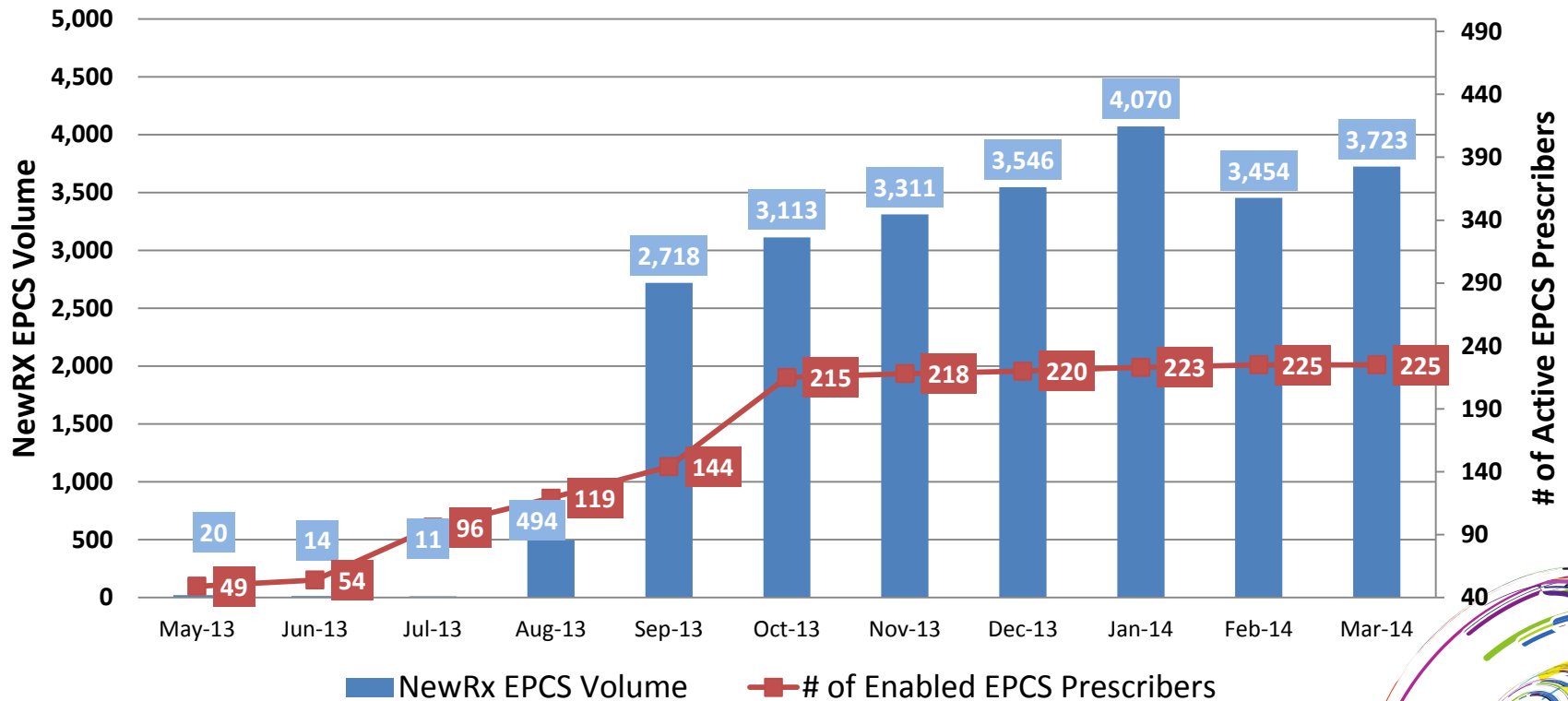
# 209 Arizona providers were EPCS enabled through the campaign



March 2014 data

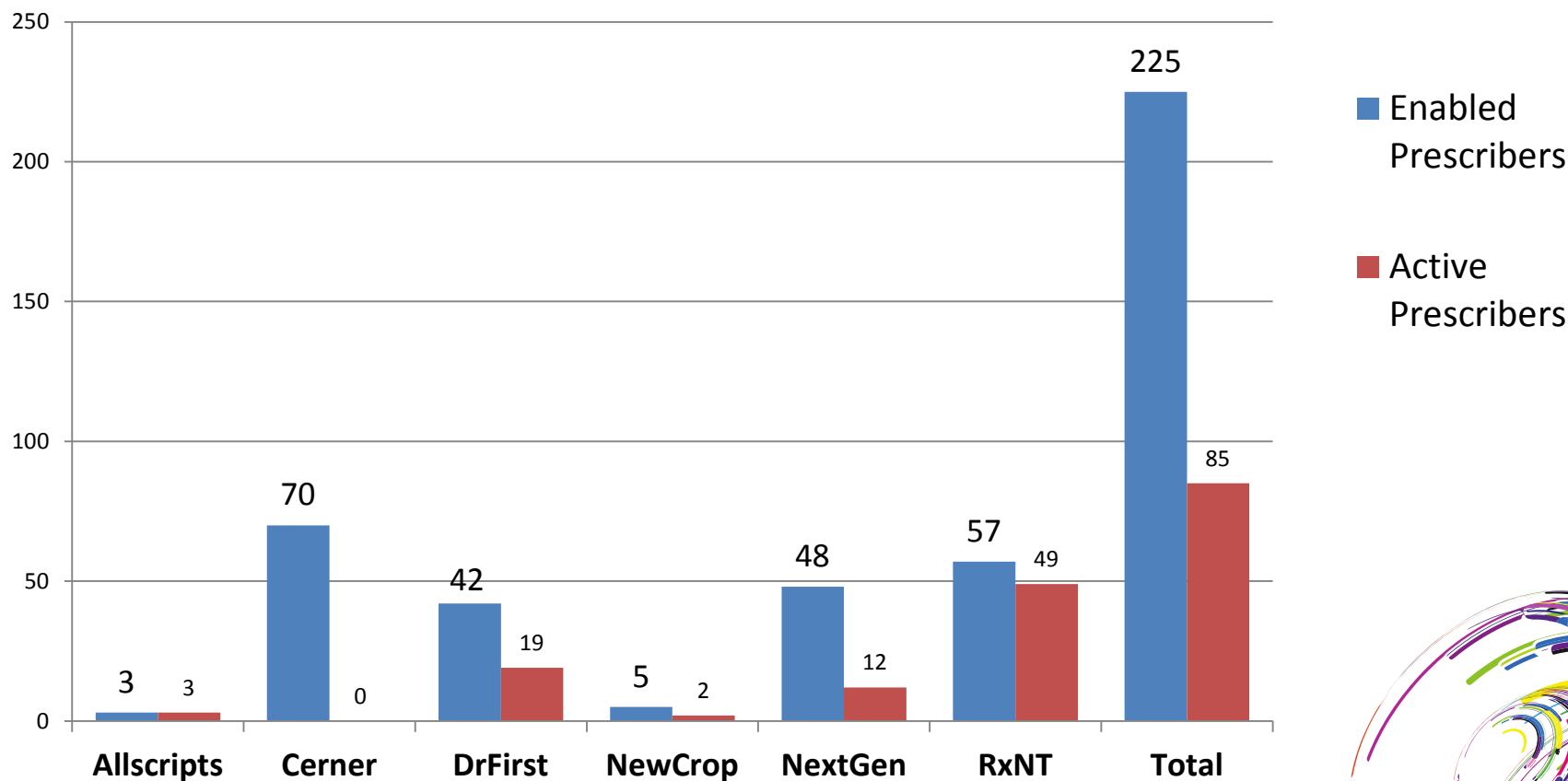


# AZ EPCS Program Grew Provider enablement and transaction volume



# AZ EPCS Prescriber (EHR) vendor progress

## AZ Enabled and Active EPCS Prescribers



March 2014 data



# Considerations & Next Steps for AZ

What we learned:	What we can do:
Many prescribers and pharmacists still <b>believe EPCS is not legal!</b>	Continue educational efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep the subject alive in newsletters, AzHeC speaking opportunities, forums, etc.</li></ul>
EPCS remains a <b>low priority for many provider vendors</b>	Maintain software vendor relationships to help them understand how EPCS benefits them <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage certification for Tier 1 endorsement</li></ul>
Prescriber and pharmacy communities have <b>strong interest in doing EPCS</b>	Keep EPCS in front of providers and pharmacies <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attend meetings, invite them to contact us with questions or concerns, etc.</li></ul>



# Considerations & Next Steps for AZ (cont.)

What we learned:	What we can do:
<b>Additional training needed</b> for pharmacy staff after pharmacy is certified for EPCS	Maintain relationships with corporate pharmacy contacts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage ongoing training with staff and solicit their help in addressing store by store problems.</li></ul>
Prescribers need a place to go for <b>issue resolution</b> or they may drop the use of the technology	Continue to work with DTAPS to keep them involved and helping with EPCS related issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use the AzHeC website, meetings , etc., to continue offering help.</li></ul>
EPCS is part of the bigger need for prescribers to adopt ePrescribing technology	In efforts to increase Arizona's status for SafeRx, incorporate the benefits of EPCS as part of the rationale for using ePrescribing systems.



# Other Opportunities & Post-Test

**Tony Schueth**

CEO & Managing Partner

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# Post Test Question #1

1. What are common reasons that require pharmacies to call prescribers upon receipt of electronic prescriptions?
  - a. Formulary/reimbursement issues
  - b. Wrong quantity
  - c. Potential drug interactions
  - d. All of the above

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  - a. Formulary/reimbursement issues
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  - d. All of the above**





## Post Test Question #2

2. What does ePA allow the provider to do?
  - a. Electronically request or be presented with a PA question set.
  - b. Return the answers to the payer and receive a real-time response.
  - c. Utilize a network or direction connection to enable bi-directional communications and real-time responses.
  - d. All of the above.

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## Post Test Question #2

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  - d. All of the above.**

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## Post Test Question #3

3. What percentage of specialty medications require prior authorization?
- a. 25%
  - b. 40%
  - c. 60%
  - d. 95%

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## Post Test Question #3

3. What percentage of specialty medications require prior authorization?
- a. 25%
  - b. 40%
  - c. 60%
  - d. 95%**

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## Post Test Question #4

4. Which of the following are NOT allowed under the Part D ePrescribing Program for LTC effective Nov. 1, 2014?
- a. Computer-Generated Facsimile
  - b. HL7 Messaging
  - c. NCPDP SCRIPT 10.6



## Post Test Question #4

4. Which of the following are NOT allowed under the Part D ePrescribing Program for LTC effective Nov. 1, 2014?
- a. Computer-Generated Facsimile**
  - b. HL7 Messaging**
  - c. NCPDP SCRIPT 10.6



## Post Test Question #5

5. Which of the states below allow EPCS but only for CIII-CV?
- a. Kansas, Vermont
  - b. Ohio and Michigan
  - c. Florida and New York
  - d. None of the above

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## Post Test Question #5

5. Which of the states below allow EPCS but only for CIII-CV?
- a. Kansas, Vermont**
  - b. Ohio and Michigan
  - c. Florida and New York
  - d. None of the above

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# Q&A

