

# Advancements in Technology to Streamline and Expedite Patient Access



**POINT-OF-CARE PARTNERS**

HIT Strategy & Management Consultants

*CBI Reimbursement & Access  
AUG 13, 2015 @ 2:15PM*

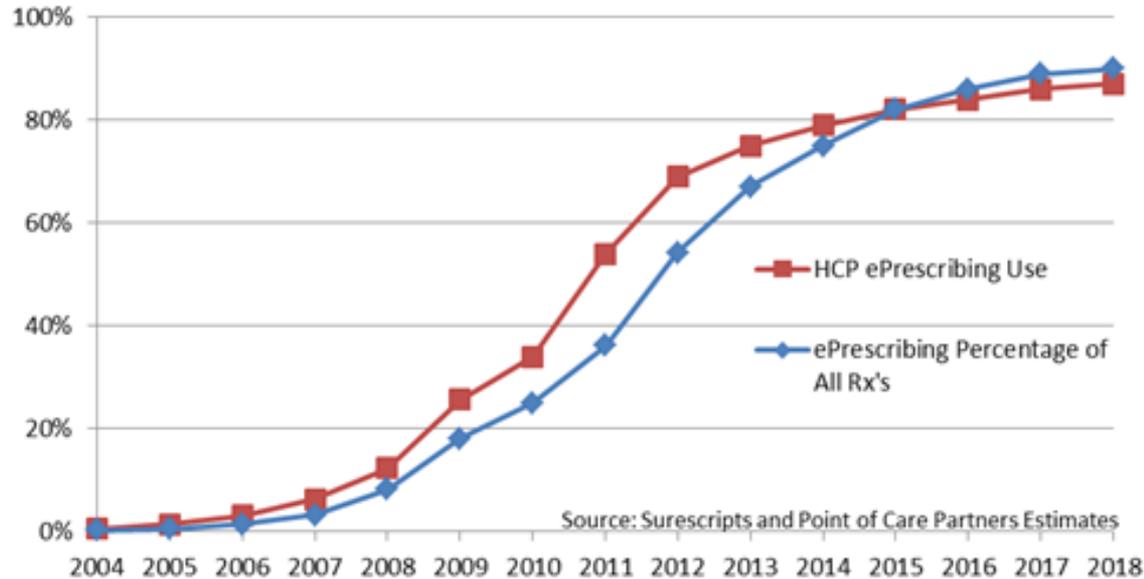
# Learning Objectives

- Assess the current and future landscape as it relates to eRx
- Understand the path forward and current opportunities for ePA
- Improve processes for HCPs & staff as they navigate reimbursement and payer coverage criteria

# EHR Adoption Grows to Increasingly Impact Prescribing



## Electronic Prescription Utilization and Adoption



Factors affecting growth:  
government incentives,  
transformation of payment  
model to outcomes-based  
reimbursement and practice  
consolidation EHR use.

\*Source: Surescripts 2014  
National Progress Report

# Electronic Prescribing (eRx) – Current Display



## ○ Search & select from a **drug list**

- By **brand** or **generic** name
- Personal, departmental, or all drugs
- Updated periodically

Product →  
Strength/Dosage →  
Patient Instructions (Sig) →

## ○ **Mandatory fields:**

- **Dose, quantity** = drop downs
- Sig = free text avail., no Fed standards implemented to date

Quantity →  
Refills →  
Comment →

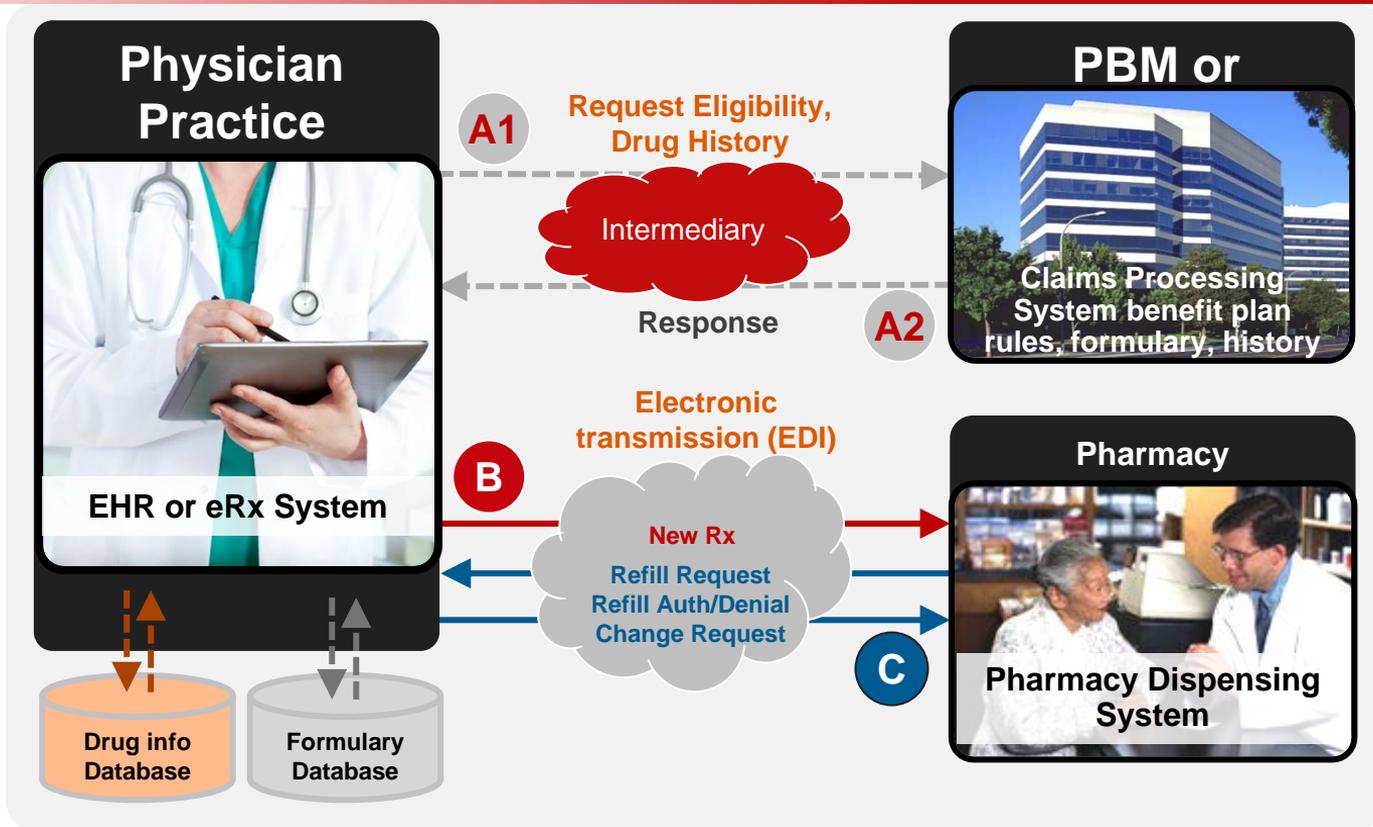
## ○ **DAW** flag available

The screenshot shows a 'Prescribe New Medication' form with the following fields and annotations:

- \* Drug Name**: Text input field. An arrow labeled 'Product' points to it.
- Indication**: Dropdown menu.
- \* Dosage**: Dropdown menu. An arrow labeled 'Strength/Dosage' points to it.
- \* Sig**: Text input field. An arrow labeled 'Patient Instructions (Sig)' points to it.
- Duration**: Dropdown menu with '# Day' label.
- \* Dispense**: Dropdown menu with '#'. An arrow labeled 'Quantity' points to it.
- \* Refills**: Dropdown menu with '#'. An arrow labeled 'Refills' points to it.
- Options**: Checkboxes for 'Maintenance Drug', 'Brand Name Necessary', and 'Samples Given'.
- Comment**: Text input field. An arrow labeled 'Comment' points to it.
- \* Effective Date**: Text input field. Labeled 'For office use only'.
- \* Package Written Date**: Text input field. Labeled 'For office use only'.
- \* Prescriber**: Dropdown menu.
- Pharmacy Note**: Text input field.

Buttons at the bottom: Add to Favorites, Add Another, OK, Cancel.

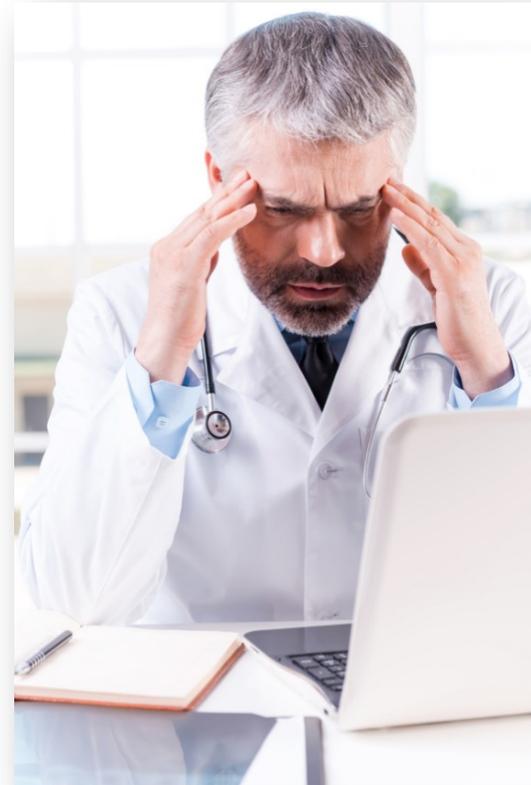
# Current Landscape: eRx Flow



# Current Challenges to eRx

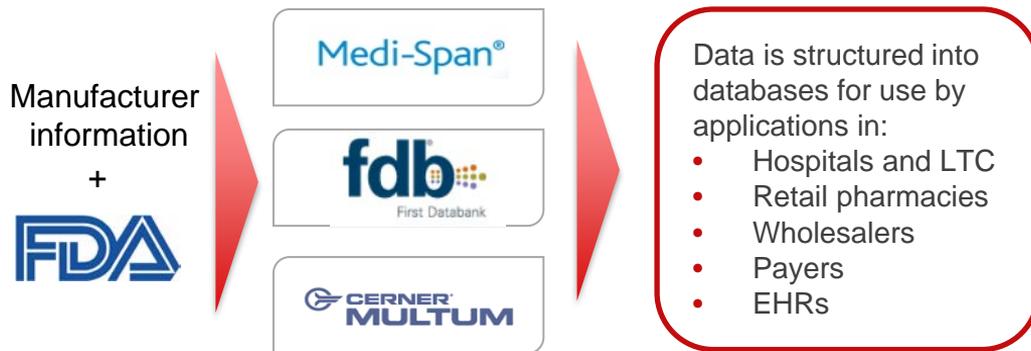


- Complex Data Refresh Process
- Delays for New drug introduction
- Formulary Tier Status Inaccuracies
- Electronic Prior Authorization (ePA)
- Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances (EPCS)
- Inability to eRx
  - Manually added medications
  - Specialty Pharmaceuticals



# Complex Updates to Drug Data in EHRs

- ⦿ EHRs purchase compendia service to provide drug info for their subscribers, update frequency and depth of data varies
- ⦿ Each EHR performs its own data integration, using complex processes, yielding varying results between EHRs
- ⦿ Periodic data downloads vary by EHRs, as well as timelines to prepare it for use in systems
- ⦿ Drug compendia companies have their own editorial pharmacists to write unique structured data for EHR customers



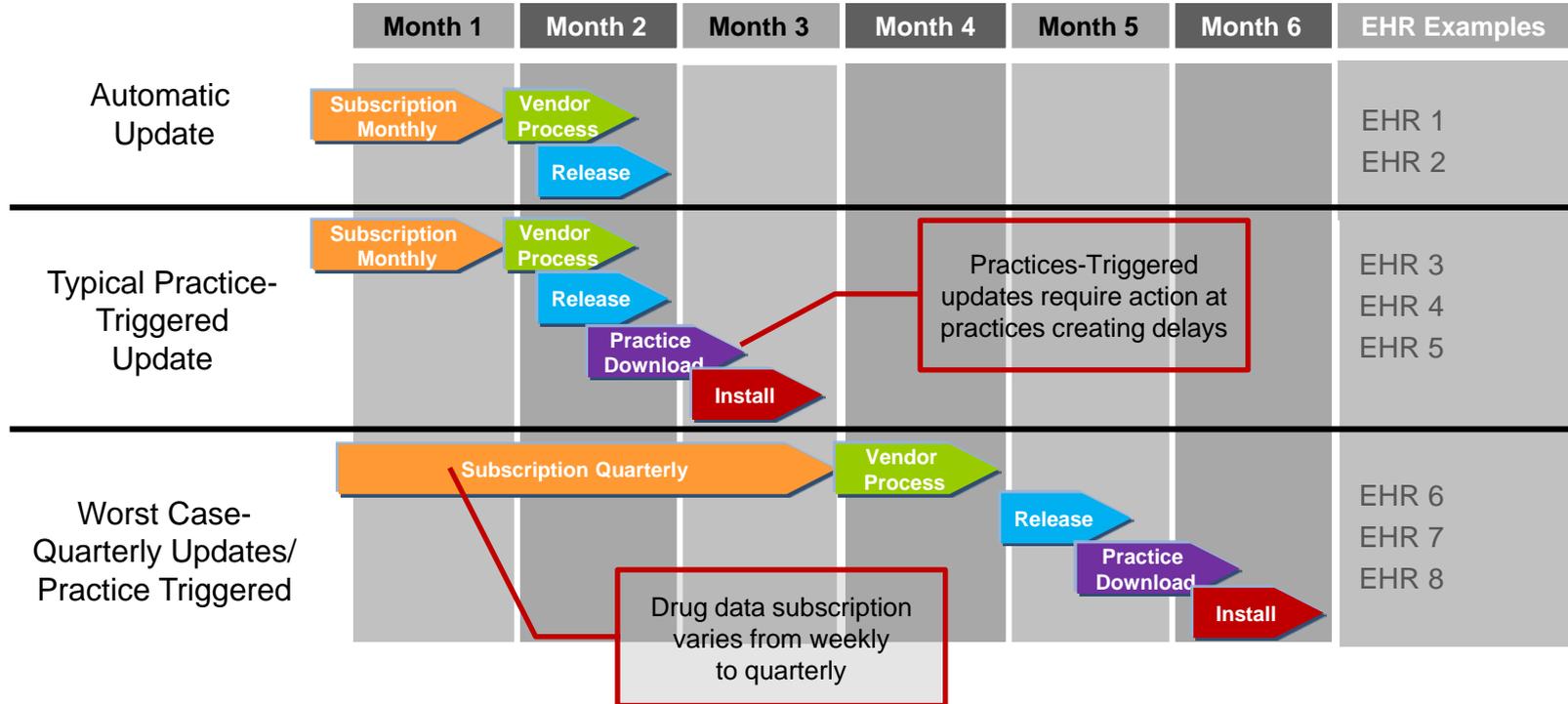
## Drug Compendia Include:

- Drugs available in the market by brand and generic name
- Pricing
- Strengths
- Drug interactions
- Drug allergy warnings
- Typical patient dosing
- Dosing warnings for renal function, pediatric and other conditions

# EHRs Currently Affect New Drug Launches

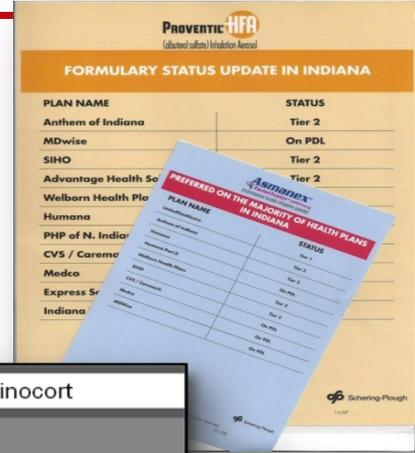


Retail Stocking ≠ EHR listing. New Products appear in EHRs from **1 month** (*most ideal & unlikely case*) to **6 months post-launch**



# Current Challenges to EHR Formulary Display

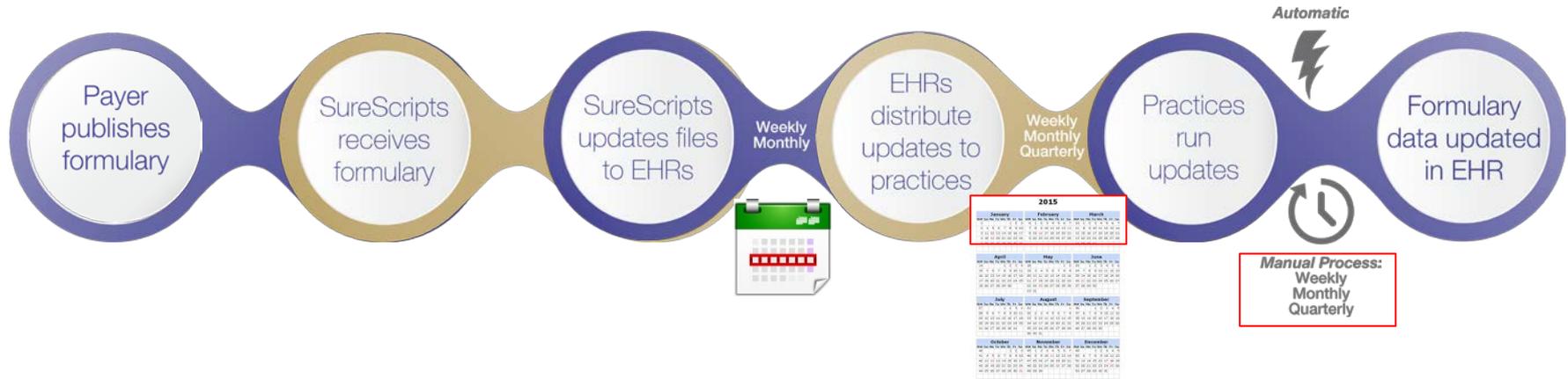
- “Wins” and Tier changes communicated by pharma outpace download from PBMs
- Plans always have carve-outs that do not jive with promotional messages
- HCPs rely on EHRs to pull in patient coverage uploaded from previous night
  - Identifiers include: first name, last name, age, gender, birth date
- HCPs always exposed to preferred formulary alternatives
  - Plethora of symbols & colors confusing



Name	Formulary Status	Formulary Status
Product 1	✔ \$ 4 copay	✔ Preferred Level 3
Product 2	✔ \$30 Copay	✔ Preferred Level 1
Product 3	✔ \$30 Copay	✔ Preferred Level 1
Product 4	✘ \$80 Copay	✘ On Formulary, Non-Preferred
Product 5	✘ 50% Co-insurance	✘ Non Formulary
Product 6	? Unknown	? Unknown

# Current Process for Drug Formulary Updates

Health Plans and PBMs bear primary responsibility for updating and distributing formulary data



Formulary data flows electronically from the Payer (Health Plan or PBM) to the EHR

Different distribution schedules of formulary data by EHR vendors can result in out-of-date formulary information

# How to Improve Formulary Info Listed in EHR



- ⊙ Coach Sales Reps on data flow process for updates and variability in data refresh timelines
  - Top EHR systems utilized by target HCPs
- ⊙ Reps advise customers on processes to ensure **latest data is in EHR**
  - Reps need to be familiar with appropriate timelines for update process and validate formulary display *before* talking w/ prescribers.
- ⊙ Utilize Favorites and Orders Sets for advantaged Tier status and provide **other forms of NPP** to highlight changes
- ⊙ Institute **CDS reminders** in EHR systems highlighting a T1 position
- ⊙ Contract w/ PBMs on dates to provide verification of formulary changes at provider level
  - Frequency of updates diminishes over the calendar year

# Current Landscape:

## Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances

- ⦿ The final barriers to EPCS are removed!
  - DEA's Interim Final Rule for **Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances** was published on **March 31, 2010**
- ⦿ States had to examine their regulations around controlled substances and could require more stringent rules than those outlined in DEA regs
  - On July 30, 2015, Missouri EPCS rules became effective



# EPCS – State of the Industry\*



- ⊙ Controlled substances represent 13% of all prescriptions but **less than 1% EPCS transmitted** nationwide
- ⊙ EPCS is starting to take off!
  - All states allow EPCS for Schedule II's (except Vermont)
  - EPCS volume increased by **400%** in 2014
- ⊙ Not all EHR vendors are certified for EPCS.
  - Implementing at providers' practices takes time/effort from both vendor and providers
- ⊙ Many prescribers and pharmacy staff do not yet recognize EPCS is legal, but this is changing...

*\*Point-of-Care Partners and Surescripts 2014 National Progress Report*

**73%**  
of pharmacies

+

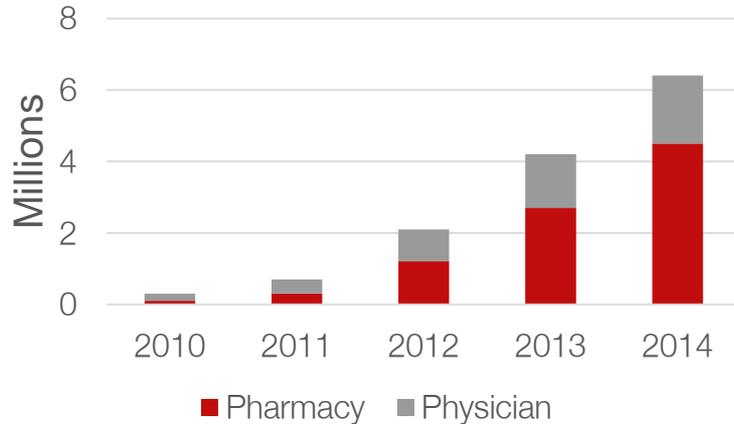
**1.4%**  
of providers

Are enabled  
for EPCS

# Electronic Prior Authorization



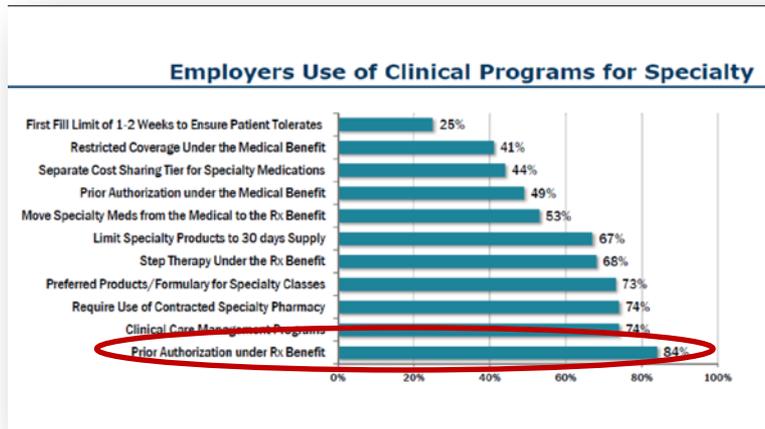
## By the Numbers: PA Volume



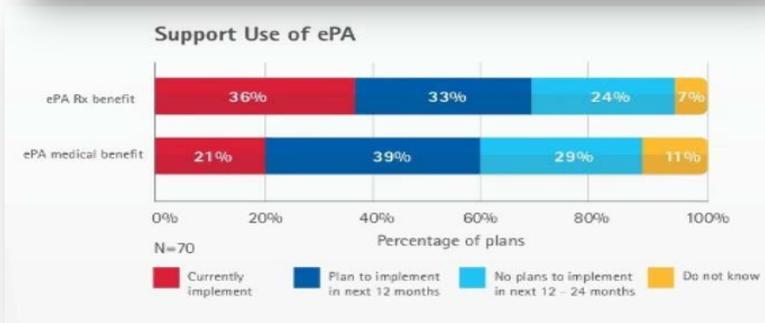
Source: CoverMyMeds

- Retrospective and prospective models emerging in the marketplace
- Retrospective being conducted in a proprietary manner
- **Prospective ePA** officially **approved** as part of the **SCRIPT standard** in July, 2013
- Standardized retrospective process on-hold
- Standardized questions being addressed
- Need for standardization, evidence-based PA criteria

# ePA and Specialty Medications



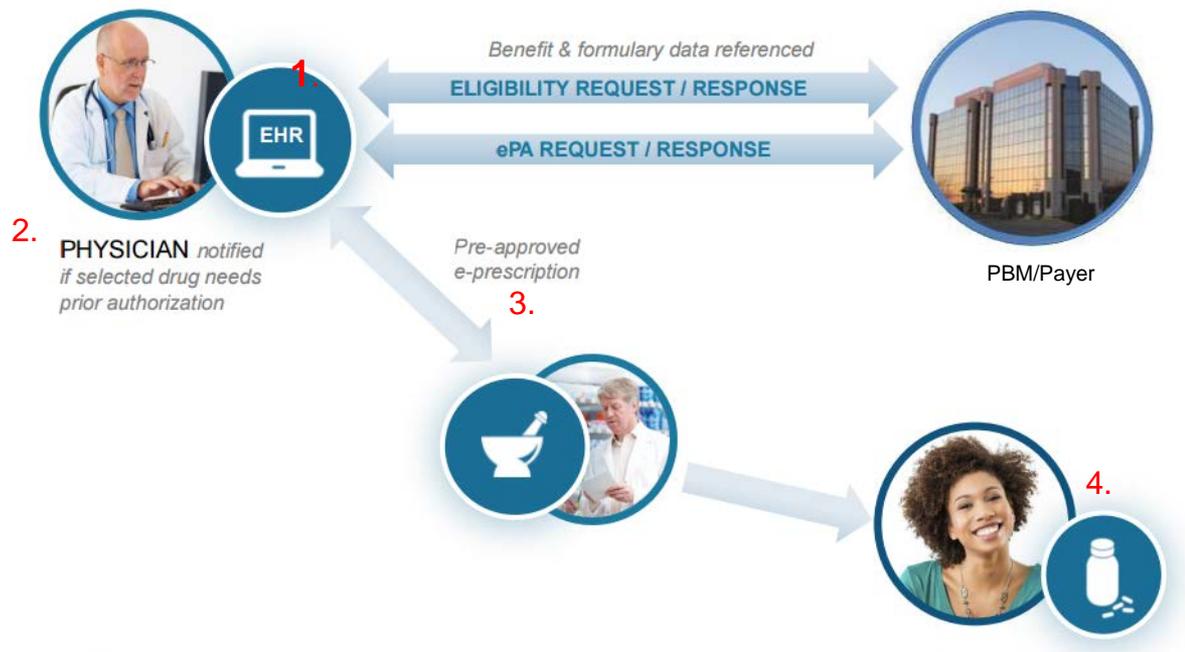
- Prior Authorization is a utilization management (UM) tool increasingly used to manage specialty drug spend and trend:
  - 84% for the Rx benefit
- Most Specialty Pharmaceuticals routed through “Hubs,” with inconvenient processes at odds with today’s eRx technology
  - Prescriber typically faxes Rx/ enrollment form to the Hub, before recording in EHR



Source: EMD Serono Specialty Digest, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition



# Desired Future of ePA: Prescriber Perspective



1. EHR identified patient formulary
2. Physician begins PA process
3. Approved prescription results in a transmission to the pharmacy
4. Patient receives medication

# Prior Authorization Questions and Open Text Answers



- ePA requests require free text fields to populate patient information
- Open ended questions will be the norm to start in an effort to slow HCP submissions
  - Structured data exchange will develop later.

ePA Questions - Levenox PA Form

Please provide all information requested. Failure to complete this form in its entirety may result in delayed processing or an adverse determination for insufficient information

Patient: 11, 11

Medication: M2 Calcium

Requested by: Manager, Mr. System

Question: Indicate whether the patient exhibits an inadequate response to treatment with at least a 30 day trial of any of the following medications (select all that apply) (2/9)

Answer:  Flovent

Additional Comments:

Asmanex

Additional Comments:

Qvar

<< Discard & Start Over Save and Finish Later Next >>

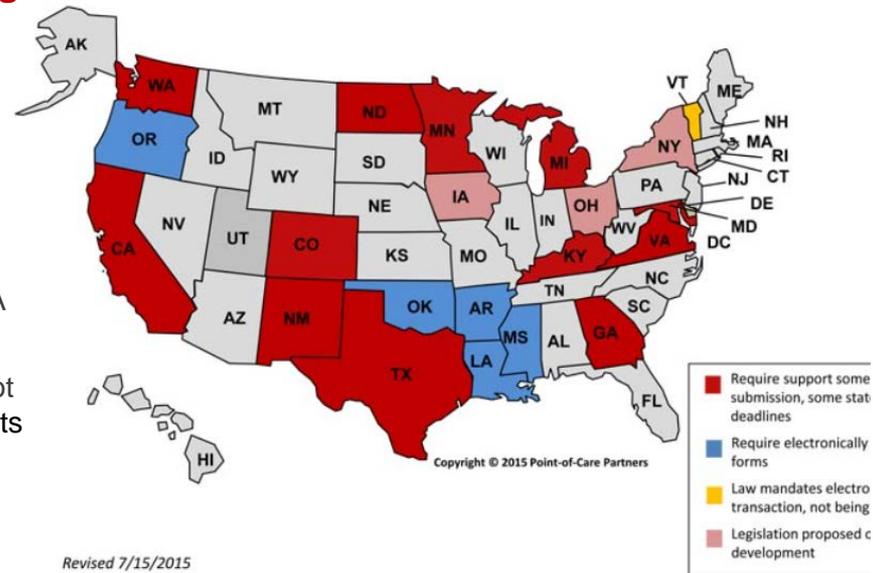
# Current Landscape for ePA

## 12 States have regulations either in effect or pending

- Ongoing Legislative and Regulatory momentum continues to move forward
- Demand seems to be high to reform the entire prior authorization process and workflow
- Payers are required to accept some type of electronic submission  
Some states pending deadline
- Two states require providers to transmit electronically available PA forms
- A separate website Law mandates electronic transaction, portal not being enforced Legislation proposed or unconnected solution meets requirements rules in some states
- Others will require an NCPDP EDI transaction development

For ePA to reach wide adoption, HCPs need integration within the EHR workflow, and auto-completion of ePA request with existing EHR data

## Electronic Prior Authorization



# ePA Capabilities Develop



## Payer

- Some payers already respond very quickly; <1 min with approvals
- No denials at this point; just triggers for additional review and/or request for more information
- Formulary data granularity increases
- Opportunity to send clearer requirements to the prescriber

## Intermediaries

- Surescripts and CoverMyMeds offer services to assist EHRs and payers
  - Surescripts is exclusively an Electronic Data Interchange solution
  - CoverMyMeds started with form/fax and has moved to portal with EHR integration to follow

## EHR

- Some EHRs are adding ePA capability
  - Surescripts has certified 9 vendors
  - CoverMyMeds has certified 2 EHR vendors + 2 consolidators (DrFirst; NewCrop)
  - Allscripts has done direct certification with major PBMs
- Even where integration has appeared, there is still a good deal data input required

## Formulary Impact:

ePA will make poor quality formulary data more apparent (missing PA obvious)

Reduced abandonment with fewer Rx's going to the pharmacy without PA approval

# Implications

## Prescriber and Brands

### Improvements & Benefits of ePA

- Automation enters a manual process
- Increase in PA visibility in formulary data
- As the ePA workflow becomes more familiar, the PA burden will decrease
- Reduced rejections
- Patients get onto therapy more quickly with fewer abandoned prescription

### Implications

- Only some payers are integrating with EHRs (national PBMs and Payers)
- Increase in drugs requiring PA
- Driving more PA requests than today
- Information requested will be more comprehensive

## Payer

- Today only expensive therapies have PA due to the payer review cost
- Opportunity to send clearer requirements to the prescriber
- ePA will make it easier for physicians to submit request and receive an approval in short order.
- Standardized questions will allow data to flow between the payer and the EHR more freely providing more than the basic questions (almost a conversation between the payer and HCP via the EHR).

# Today's Specialty Prescribing Process: Obsolete. Manual. Inefficient.



Prescription  
is typically  
**faxed** to  
pharmacy.



Prescriber “unknowns”:

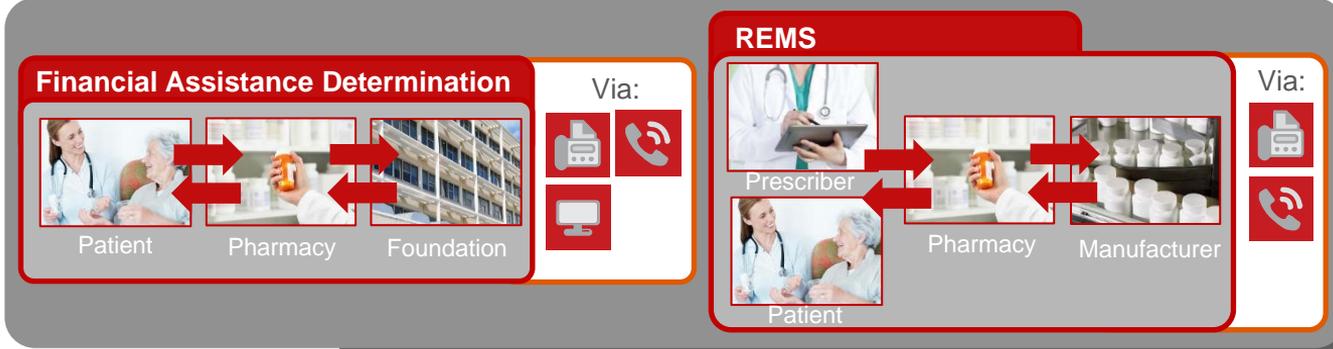
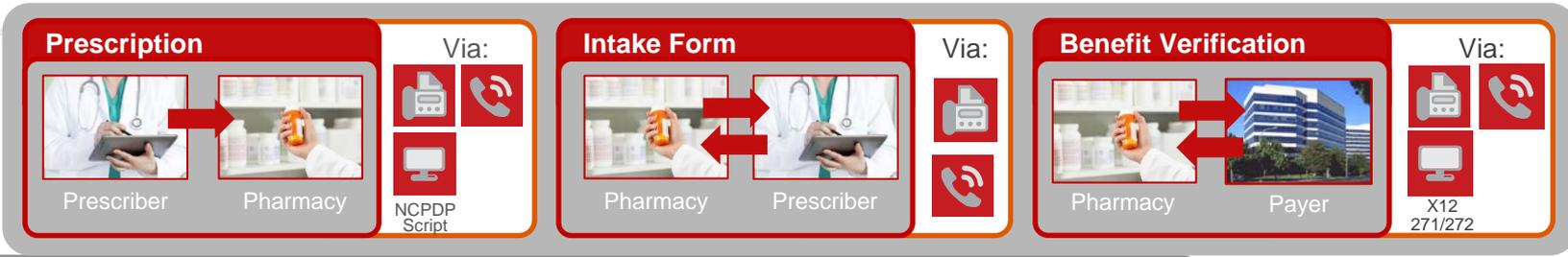
- patient copayment
- contracted pharmacies
- prior authorization
- REMS
- financial assistance



**Time intensive**  
for pharmacy:

Multiple calls to  
determine coverage, if  
prior authorization/REMS  
is required.

# Types of Specialty Prescription Transactions



# Challenges in Specialty Prescribing

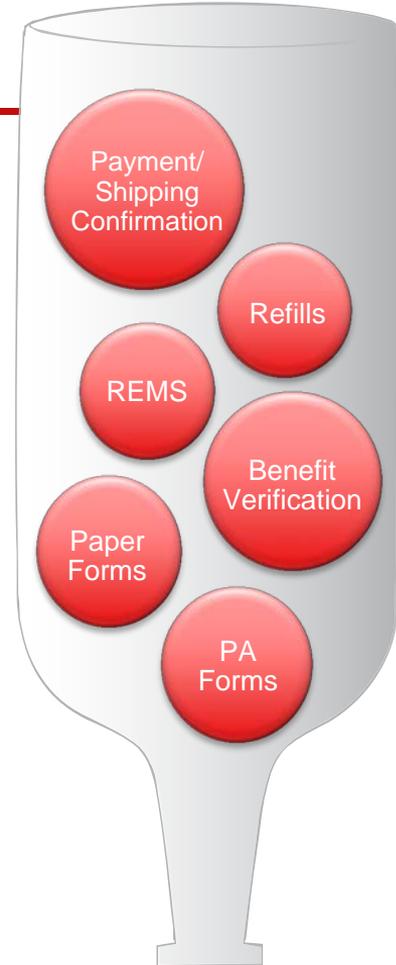
## Manual processes cause excess time delays\*

- 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

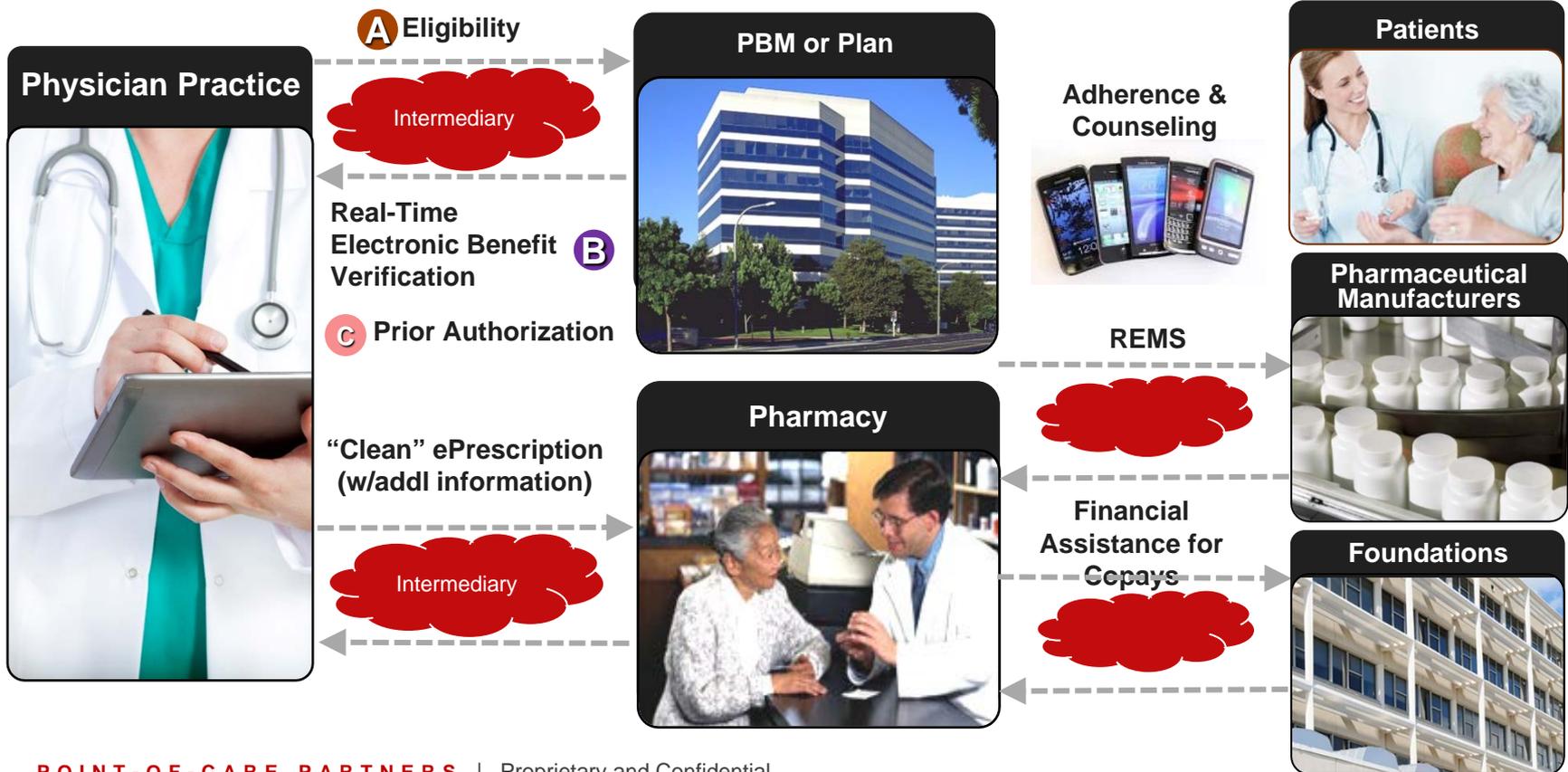
## Bottlenecks accumulate –

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



Source:  
ZappRx, Inc.

# Future Landscape – Specialty Pharma



# eRx Future Landscape

- ◉ More **e-couponing** and **patient education** integrated into EHR
  - through eRx and patient portals
- ◉ Growth of **ePA** reducing role of ‘hubs’
  - Cost efficiencies, work stream advantages, HCP demand
- ◉ Increase in EPCS & eRx of Specialty Meds
- ◉ Greater use of **Favorites** and **Order sets** by HCPs, esp. w/in IDNs

The screenshot displays an eRx application interface. At the top, there are two tabs: "Add New Rx" (selected) and "Add New Order". Below the tabs, the "Rx Type" is set to "MedispanRx". A search bar contains "Colchicine" and "Find" is highlighted. The search criteria are "Starts With" and "Standard". There are checkboxes for "Real Time" (checked) and "Show Discontinued" (unchecked). Below the search bar is a table with columns: D#, F, Strength, Form., Take, Route, Freq., Duration, and a final column with the value "1". The table contains two rows of data for Colchicine: one as a Powder and one as a Tablet.

D#	F	Strength	Form.	Take	Route	Freq.	Duration	
Ⓚ	?		Powder	as directed				
Ⓚ	?	0.6 MG	Tablet	1 tablet	Orally	Once a day	30 day(s)	30

A context menu is open over the table, with an orange border. The menu items are: "Add Personal QuickPick" (checked), "Add Organizational QuickPick", and "Remove QuickPick".

# Summary



- ⦿ Majority of HCPs are ePrescribing within EHRs
- ⦿ Each EHR system differs in how and when new drugs are added
- ⦿ Pharma reps and practice staff need to understand the benefits of frequent EHR updates and the process to refresh their EHR's drug database
- ⦿ EPCS is now legal in all 50 states and DC and most large EHRs are certified for EPCS
- ⦿ Electronic prior authorization (ePA) is increasing, and is key to improving patient access to medications
- ⦿ The industry is looking at how to better accommodate eRx of Specialty Medications

Thank you.



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