

# Kentucky EPCS Mandate

## Mandatory Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances

Kentucky Revised Statute 218A.182 mandates the electronic prescribing of controlled substances (EPCS) in Kentucky effective Jan. 1, 2021. The Kentucky mandate is similar to the federal Medicare Part D EPCS mandate effective Jan. 1, 2021, but applies to all controlled substances prescribed in Kentucky regardless of payer.

Some controlled substance prescriptions will be exempt from the Kentucky EPCS mandate. Examples include:

- Prescriptions issued by veterinarians
- Prescriptions issued for hospice patients or residents of a nursing facility
- Prescriptions issued during a temporary technological or electrical failure
- Prescriptions issued that include elements not supported by the most recently implemented version of the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs Prescriber/Pharmacist Interface SCRIPT Standard
- Prescriptions issued by practitioners who have received a temporary EPCS waiver from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS). A practitioner who is unable to comply with the EPCS mandate may petition the Cabinet for a temporary waiver based on economic hardship, technological limitations outside the practitioner's control, or other exceptional circumstances.

Please refer to KRS 218A.182 for a complete list of exceptions.

### [Specific to pharmacists](#)

KRS 218A.182 specifically states that a pharmacist who receives a written, oral, or faxed prescription for a controlled substance *shall not be required to verify* that the prescription properly falls under one (1) of the exceptions from the requirement to electronically prescribe. Pharmacists may continue to dispense medications from otherwise valid written, oral, or fax prescriptions that are consistent with current laws and administrative regulations, including KRS.218A.180 (3).

Additional information regarding EPCS requirements and exemptions allowed can be found in the following links:

[KRS 218A.182](#)

[KAR 902 55:130](#)

[KRS 218A.180](#)

[CHFS-OIG Drug Enforcement Website](#)

[DEA EPCS Website](#)