

Governor Signs Legislation to Combat Prescription Drug Abuse

Gov. Cuomo approved legislation aimed at [combating prescription drug abuse](#), earlier this week. The new law includes a series of provisions to overhaul the way prescription drugs are distributed and tracked in New York state, including enacting a "real time" prescription monitoring registry to provide timely and enhanced information to practitioners and pharmacists. The law requires all prescriptions to be electronically transmitted, improving safeguards for the distribution of specific prescription drugs that are prone to abuse. New York will become one of the first states to move from paper prescriptions to a system mandating the electronic prescribing (e-prescribing) for all controlled substances with limited exceptions. E-prescribing is seen as critical to eliminate diversion that results from the alteration, forgery or theft of prescription paper.

This law also requires that DOH institute a program for the safe disposal of unused controlled substances. DOH will work with local police departments to establish secure disposal sites for controlled substances at police stations for consumers. Previously, individuals were only able to dispose of controlled substances during approved take-back events. Click [here](#) for details on the legislation.

Contact: Elliott Frost, efrost@leadingageny.org, 518-867-8832

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