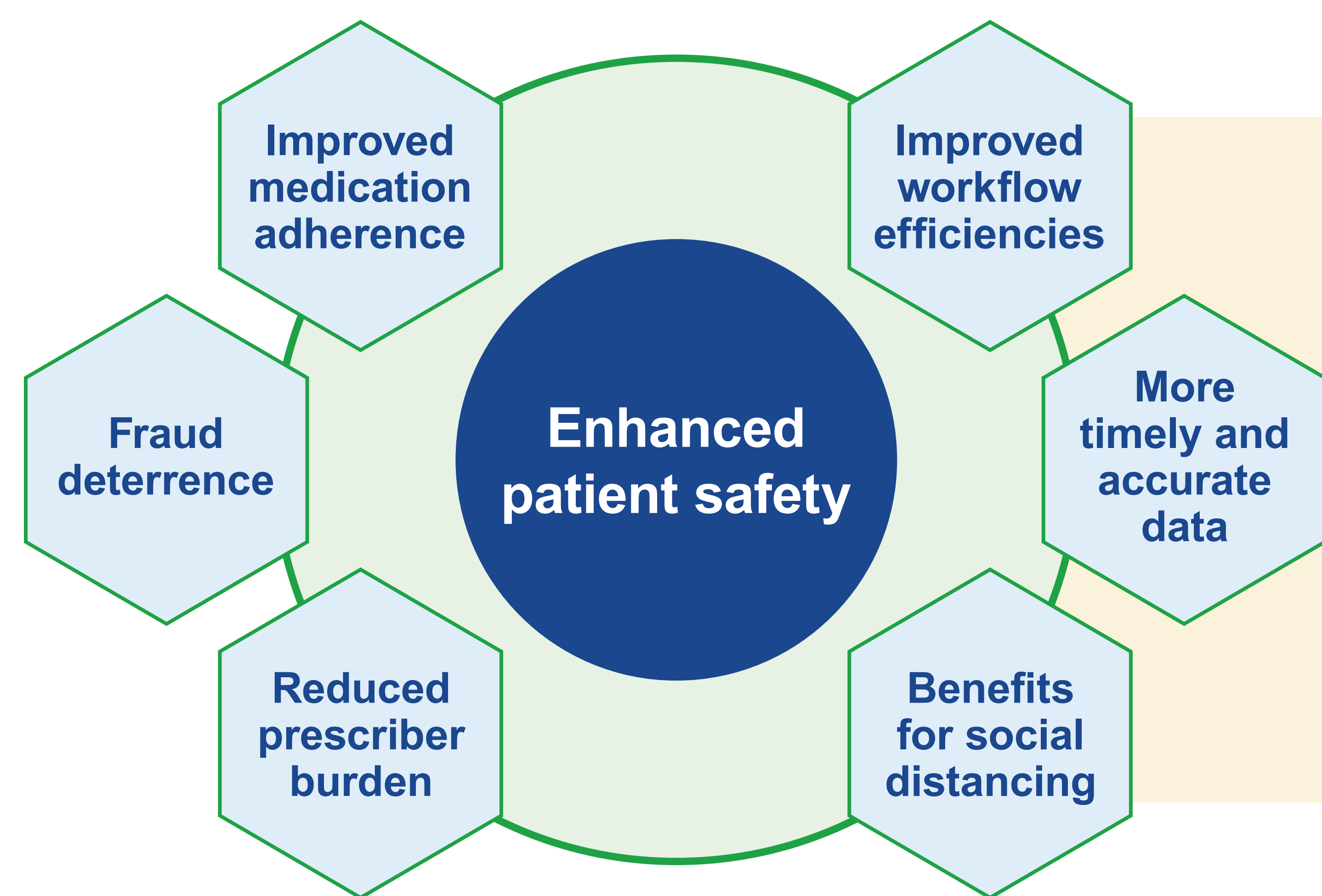


Background: Opioid Crisis and SUPPORT Act

In 2019, of the 70,000 deaths from drug overdoses, more than 70% involved an opioid.^{1,2} In addition to the increasing number of opioid-related overdoses, the misuse of opioids has led to a range of behaviors and consequences, including development of opioid-use disorders and the transition from prescription opioids to illicit opioids. An estimated 29% of those prescribed opioids for chronic pain misuse their medications with up to 12% developing an opioid-use disorder.³

Enacted in 2018, the [SUPPORT Act](#) aims to increase options to treat Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries with substance use disorders including opioid use disorder (OUD); to ensure appropriate prescribing; to improve the treatment of acute and chronic pain; to heighten safety; and to illuminate prescribing data. Section 2003 of the Act mandates that the **prescribing of controlled substances**, including opioids, under Medicare Part D prescription drug plans **be done electronically**.

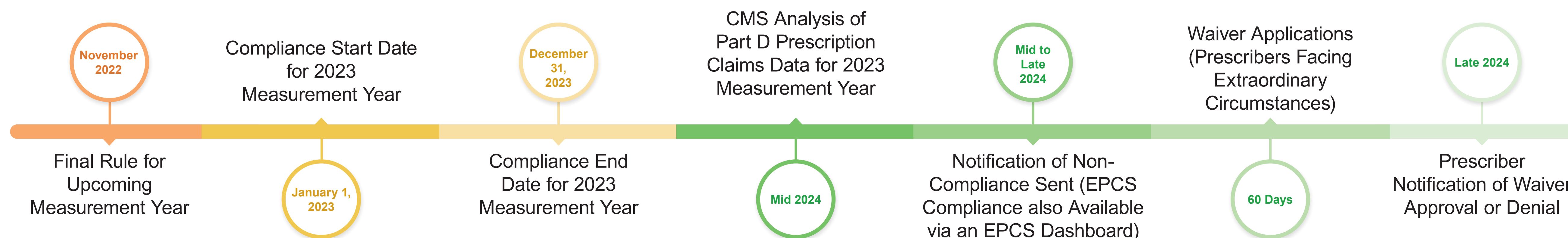
Benefits of EPCS: Increasing Patient Safety



EPCS enhances patient safety through patient identity checks, safety alerts, medication menus, electronic history files, and medication recommendations that lower the risk of errors and potentially harmful interactions.

CMS monitors EPCS compliance and overall electronic prescribing trends to provide targeted education and outreach, inform rule-making, and work toward our ultimate goal of promoting patient safety.

EPCS Program 2023 Measurement Year Timeline



CMS=Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

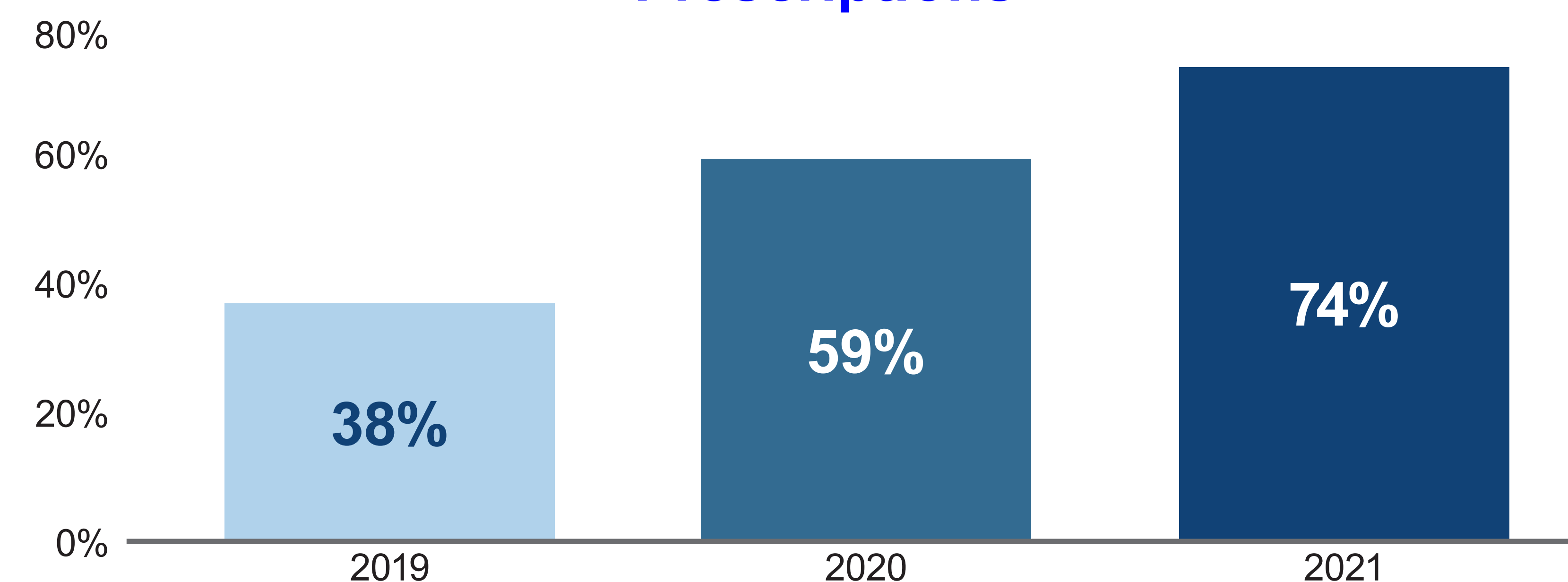
1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Drug overdose deaths. 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/index.html>. Accessed February 10, 2022.
 2. Mattson CL, Tanz LJ, Quinn K, Kariisa M, Patel P, Davis NL. Trends and geographic patterns in drug and synthetic opioid overdose deaths - United States, 2013-2019. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2021;70(6):202-207. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7006a4>.
 3. Vowles KE, McEntee ML, Julnes PS, Frohe T, Ney JP, van der Goes DN. Rates of opioid misuse, abuse, and addiction in chronic pain: a systematic review and data synthesis. Pain. 2015;156(4):569-576. doi: 10.1097/01.j.pain.0000460357.01998.f1.

Contact the EPCS Service Center

Phone: 1.866.288.8292 | Hearing impaired dial 711 for TRS Communications Assistant | Hours: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–8 p.m. ET
 Email: EPCS-EPrescribe@cms.hhs.gov | Web: cmsqualitysupport.servicenow.com/ccsq_support_central

EPCS utilization continues to rise year over year.

Percent of Electronic Filled / All Controlled Substance Prescriptions



Source: CMS Integrated Data Repository

2023 Measurement Year EPCS Program Overview

✓ EPCS Program Rulemaking

In recent years, CMS has sought public comment and feedback to develop EPCS program regulations ([42 CFR 423.160](#)) in the Physician Fee Schedule Final Rules. CMS encourages public comments on proposed rulemaking.

✓ Getting Started

No registration or submission of reporting data is necessary, however, prescribers using EPCS must use a software application that meets all Drug Enforcement Administration ([DEA](#)) requirements. Prescribers should also check their local state laws, because additional registration for controlled substance prescriptions or other state-specific EPCS requirements may apply.

📅 Mark Your Calendar

- January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023: Initial Measurement Year
- Summer 2024: Analysis of 2023 EPCS Measurement Year data
- Fall 2024: 2023 EPCS Non-compliance Notices issued
- Fall 2024: 2023 EPCS Dashboard open; 2023 Waiver Applications accepted for 60 days

✓ EPCS Program Compliance Determination and Exceptions

For the compliance analysis, CMS will analyze Medicare Part D claims and use the prescriber's National Provider Identifier, or NPI. The program sets a minimum 70% threshold for prescribers to be considered compliant, after exceptions. Prescriptions written for a beneficiary in a long-term care (LTC) facility will not be included in determining compliance until January 1, 2025.

✓ EPCS Dashboard and Waiver Application

Prescribers can check their compliance status on the EPCS Dashboard in mid to late 2024. Non-compliant prescribers may request a waiver via the dashboard when circumstances beyond their control prevented them from meeting requirements.

✓ Non-Compliance

For the 2023 EPCS Measurement Year, CMS will send non-compliance notices to prescribers violating the EPCS mandate using contact information available in the Medicare Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System (PECOS) and the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES).

🔗 Find more information on the [CMS EPCS Program website](#).