



Academy of
Managed Care
Pharmacy®

August 3, 2018

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 2789 – Electronic Data Transmission of Prescriptions

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) writes in strong support of requiring electronic transmission of prescriptions (e-Rx) as proposed in Assembly Bill 2789. AMCP believes that the electronic exchange of prescription, drug benefit, and drug information improves patient drug therapy, increases operational efficiencies and optimizes health care outcomes and will decrease abuse and diversion of prescriptions for controlled substances.

AMCP is the nation's leading professional association dedicated to increasing patient access to affordable medicines, improving health outcomes and ensuring the wise use of health care dollars. Through evidence- and value-based strategies and practices, the Academy's 8,000 pharmacists, physicians, nurses and other practitioners, including members in California, manage medication therapies for the 270 million Americans served by health plans, pharmacy benefit management firms, emerging care models and government.

AMCP appreciates that Assembly Bill 2789 recognizes that certain exemptions to e-Rx are necessary to allow patients timely access to medication, such as prescriptions issued in hospital emergency departments; prescriptions where the patient resides outside of CA; or where elements of the prescription are not covered in the latest National Council for Prescription Drug Programs' SCRIPT standard. AMCP is also pleased that this legislation does not require a pharmacist to verify an exemption upon receipt of a written prescription.

States have recognized that e-Rx is a useful tool to combat opioid addiction. Electronic prescriptions reduce the likelihood of diversion of medications and cannot be altered or copied. New York State, for example, saw a 70% decrease in lost or stolen prescriptions after implementing a mandatory e-Rx law¹. This legislation could lead to a clear decrease in the diversion of opioid prescriptions.

¹Remarks of Anita Murray, Deputy Director, New York State Department of Health at the Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program National Meeting (September 6, 2017). http://www.pdmpassist.org/pdf/PPTs/17-02C_Murray_New_Initiatives.pdf

Therefore, AMCP strongly encourages the passage of AB 2789 to improve patient drug therapy safety, reduce lost or stolen prescriptions, and optimize patient outcomes through requiring e-Rx. We appreciate the opportunity to share our views. If you have any questions about our position, please contact AMCP's Director of Legislative Affairs, Regina Benjamin, at (703) 684-2620 or rbenjamin@amcp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Cantrell", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE
Chief Executive Officer