



Academy of
Managed Care
Pharmacy®

August 13, 2018

The Honorable Toni G. Atkins,
Senate President Pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Patricia C. Bates
Senate Minority Leader
State Capitol, Room 305
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 2789 – Electronic Data Transmission of Prescriptions

Dear Senators Atkins and Bates:

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 and amended by the Senate. 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 the state; 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. For example, New York State 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.

Therefore, AMCP strongly encourages the passage of AB 2789 as amended by the Senate to improve patient drug therapy safety, reduce lost or stolen prescriptions, and optimize patient outcomes through requiring e-Rx.

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

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 A. Cantrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE
Chief Executive Officer