



An Arizona Campaign to Increase the E-Prescribing of Controlled Substances

In January 2018, Governor Ducey signed the Arizona Opioid Epidemic Act, [AZ Senate Bill 1001](#), which includes a provision requiring each prescription for a Schedule II opioid to be transmitted electronically to the dispensing pharmacy. This legislation was amended by [HB 2075](#), signed by Governor Ducey on February 14, 2019 that set a firm deadline of January 1, 2020 for all Arizona prescribers.

The major provisions contained in HB 2075:

- Moves the 2019 implementation dates for urban and rural counties to January 1, 2020 for all counties.
- Allows for written prescriptions if the e-prescribing system is not operational or available in a timely manner, the occurrence must be noted in records maintained by the pharmacy for a period of time set by the Arizona Board of Pharmacy.
- Exempts requirements for Indian Health Services and federal facilities.
- Eliminates the waiver process through the Arizona Board of Pharmacy but provides rulemaking authority in consultation with a Task Force to add additional exceptions.
- Delays e-prescribing requirements for veterinarians until e-prescribing software is widely available.
- Allow for prescriptions to be faxed if the prescription is compounded for direct administration to a patient, residents of a long-term care facility and hospice patients.
- Resolves a statutory conflict that inadvertently imposed a prohibition on physician assistants prescribing more than a 72-hour dosage of opioids or benzodiazepines.

Contains a retroactive clause to December 31, 2018 so the legislation takes effect immediately once it becomes law.