



# Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL  
Governor

JAMES V. McDONALD, MD, MPH  
Commissioner

JOHANNE E. MORNE, MS  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

March 14, 2025

Dear Practitioners and Pharmacists:

This letter is to inform you that the blanket waiver from the electronic prescribing requirements set forth in Public Health Law (PHL) § 281 and Education Law § 6810 for certain exceptional circumstances in which electronic prescribing cannot be performed due to limitations in software functionality, issued on April 30, 2024, will expire on March 24, 2025. This letter will extend the blanket waiver through March 24, 2026, after which, it will not be renewed.

National standards for electronic prescribing are periodically evaluated and revised by the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP). In 2018, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the intent to retire NCPDP Version 10.6 and adopt NCPDP SCRIPT Standard Version 2017071. The new standard became effective January 1, 2021.

Notification of the adoption of NCPDP SCRIPT Standard v2017071 was first provided in the blanket waiver issued by the Commissioner's letter dated August 25, 2020, and in each renewal thereafter. Ample time has elapsed to transition to and implement this new version. Therefore, this letter serves as notice of non-renewal of the blanket waiver. The Department has determined that all hindrances to electronic prescribing previously addressed by the blanket waiver have been resolved by NCPDP SCRIPT Standard v2017071.

Nothing in this letter should be interpreted to prevent a pharmacist from continuing to dispense medications from valid electronic, written, oral, or faxed prescriptions that are consistent with current laws and regulations.

**Furthermore, this letter does not negate the blanket waiver from electronic prescribing requirements for nursing homes and residential health care facilities issued by the Commissioner on December 23, 2024 and any subsequent renewals thereof.**

Sincerely,

James V. McDonald, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner of Health