

## **TN Board of Pharmacy Approves Policy Statement to Allow Controlled Substance E-Prescribing when DEA Certification Has Been Met**

This policy statement was approved at the June 8, 2010 Board of Pharmacy meeting. Pharmacists may now accept electronically prescribed prescriptions, *once the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) regulations of an audit on the prescriber and pharmacy applications (computer software) are deemed met. Successful completion of the audits will result in “certification” of prescribers and pharmacies. Only after this certification is achieved by both the individual prescriber and the pharmacy practice site, can a pharmacy accept electronically prescribed controlled substance prescriptions. This rule does not apply to current laws and rules as it relates to hand written prescriptions or prescriptions handed to the patient for transport to a pharmacy of the patient’s choice.*

According to the DEA, a list of approved “audit” vendors will be available on the DEA web site in the future. As of June 8, 2010 *no known approved certification(s) have been published by the DEA.*

The Tennessee Board of Pharmacy advises that all pharmacists and prescribers read and follow the DEA requirements for application certification **before** accepting or prescribing controlled substance electronic prescriptions. The pharmacy application requirements are found in Section 21 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) 1311.205 and 21 C.F.R. 1311.215.

The DEA Question and Answer sections are located at: [http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/ecomm/e\\_rx/faq/eapplications.htm](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/ecomm/e_rx/faq/eapplications.htm) (Title-Application Requirements) and [http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/ecomm/e\\_rx/faq/faq.htm](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/ecomm/e_rx/faq/faq.htm) (Title-Implementation) help to answer many questions on what requirements **must be met** to allow electronic prescribing to be accepted in the pharmacy.

The complete rule may be viewed at: [http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/fed\\_regs/rules/2010/fr0331.htm](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/fed_regs/rules/2010/fr0331.htm)

For other questions involving these issues, the DEA plans to post a toll-free help line on the DEA web site in the near future. This helpdesk will be staffed with DEA personnel specifically trained to field questions in the area of E-prescribing for controlled substances.