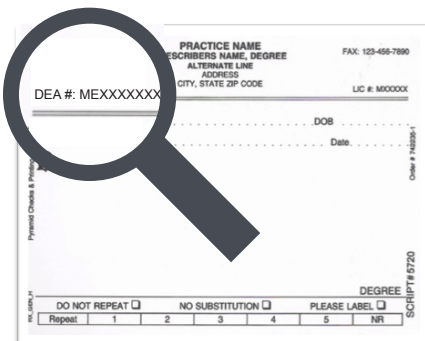# Protect against DEA number theft with Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances

A major challenge with printed paper prescriptions and prescription pads is that they advertise prescribers' DEA numbers in plain sight. This leads to theft of prescription pads, fraudulent use of DEA numbers, and inappropriate access to highly addictive and potent medications. These fraudulent activities directly contribute to prescription drug abuse, which contributed to more than 25,000 deaths in the U.S. in 2014.

Key points

- 1 in 10 prescribers admit to having their DEA number stolen

- Eliminate prescription pad and DEA number theft with EPCS

A recent survey revealed that about 10% of prescribers admitted to having their DEA number stolen, or compromised. In addition, 29% of the prescribers know a colleague who has fallen prey to DEA number fraud. A stolen DEA number can lead to hundreds if not thousands of fraudulent prescriptions.

When a prescriber's DEA number is stolen or compromised there are several things that can occur. First, the prescriber may not be able to prescribe for a number of weeks, or possibly months, while the DEA processes their new number. Second, a comprehensive investigation into the incident, involving the institution's Board of Physicians or Board of Advanced Practice Nurses. This can take a significant amount of time and can be an arduous process. Any physician found guilty of engaging in the theft of a DEA number can be stripped of their medical license and face punitive damages.

The process of investigating DEA number breaches places unnecessary pressure on institutions, particularly when institution-wide DEA numbers are compromised. These breaches can halt all prescribing at an institution, and incur huge costs in processing fees, investigation processes, labor hours, and lost productivity.

Implementing Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances (EPCS) will help keep DEA numbers secure while still allowing physicians to prescribe efficiently.

Enabling EPCS securely with Imprivata Confirm ID

The DEA allows EPCS only if certain requirements are met and a secure, auditable chain of trust is established for the entire EPCS process. Imprivata Confirm ID for EPCS is the fast, secure signing solution for e-prescribing of controlled substances. Imprivata Confirm ID is the most comprehensive platform for provider identity proofing, supervised enrollment of credentials, two-factor authentication, and reporting, helping healthcare organizations meet federal and state-level requirements for EPCS. Imprivata Confirm ID for EPCS also gives care providers a fast and convenient e-prescribing workflow

For further information please contact us at
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Offices in
Lexington, MA USA
Uxbridge, UK
Melbourne, Australia
Nuremberg, Germany
The Hague, Netherlands

by integrating with leading EHRs and supporting the broadest range of two-factor authentication modalities. By giving providers a single, efficient, and consistent e-prescribing workflow for all medications, Imprivata Confirm ID for EPCS drives adoption of EPCS and helps organizations realize the substantial benefits.
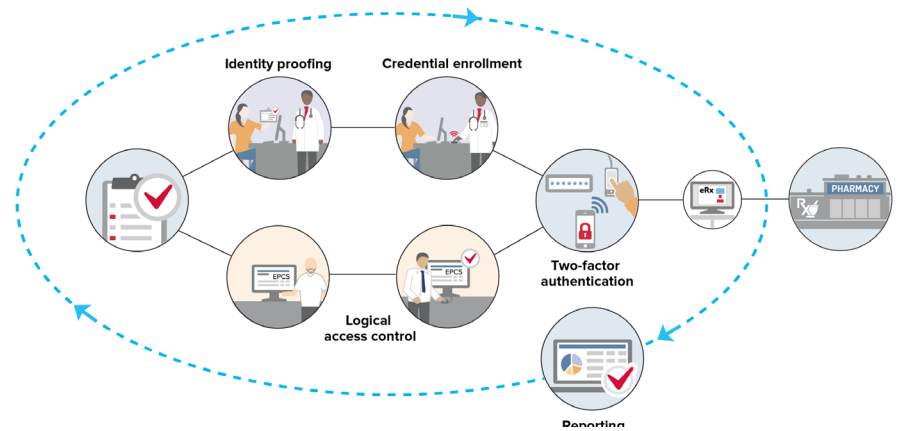
Imprivata Confirm ID elegantly simplifies EPCS workflows by:

- Delivering a complete solution for provider identity proofing, supervised enrollment, and two-factor authentication

- Providing the broadest range of DEA-compliant two-factor authentication modalities, including Hands Free Authentication, push token notification, and fingerprint biometrics, to make EPCS fast and convenient for providers

- Integrating directly into the e-prescribing workflows of leading EHR applications

- Streamlining order signing by only prompting providers for what authentication methods are available and allowed

- Operating as a stand-alone solution or in any single sign-on environment

Imprivata Confirm ID: fast, secure signing for E-prescribing of Controlled Substances

For more information about Imprivata Confirm ID and how it helps meet DEA and state-level compliance requirements for EPCS,
visit www.imprivata.com/EPCS.