

GRIPA Connect Clinical Integration Web Portal to Offer

# Electronic Prescribing

BY MICHAEL VAN ORNUM, RPH, GRIPA CONSULTING CLINICAL PHARMACIST



Physicians coming together  
for all the right reasons

*"I am very excited to be using e-prescribing in my practice. Patients tend to really like the convenience and have surprised me with their comfort with the process. I feel that it is definite benefit for patient safety and has improved interactions with pharmacies. DrFirst appears to be a great solution for e-prescribing. It has an easier interface and appears to have a more robust formulary and search capability than the other provider we piloted. I am looking forward to the change to increase both functionality and ease of use."*

**Dr. Steven Howard,**  
Cross Keys Internal Medicine,  
a GRIPA physician who was  
involved in the selection process

An Electronic Prescribing feature will soon be available to GRIPA Connect Clinical Integration participants on the web portal. Studies have shown

significant benefits to individual practices, pharmacists, hospitals, employers and patients through e-prescribing. Because GRIPA Connect ePrescribing will give all physicians involved in a patient's care access to a complete list of prescriptions for that patient, the potential for adverse drug reactions is greatly reduced, creating better quality health care and resulting in cost savings. The eHealth Initiative reports that e-prescribing could reduce the nation's healthcare costs by \$2.9 billion.

GRIPA has contracted with DrFirst, which we have determined is the best provider of e-prescribing technology. GRIPA staff and several GRIPA physicians have evaluated several e-prescribing products based on such factors as safety, user interface, reliability, functionality, technical resources and ability to interface with the GRIPA Connect Portal. DrFirst was found to be superior to all other



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products and to be most appropriate for GRIPA's needs.

The key advantages of GRIPA Connect ePrescribing for our physicians are:

- Availability of a single patient prescription record: All CI providers have access to the same medication list.
- True electronic prescribing: Prescriptions are sent directly to the pharmacist's computer, not by fax.
- Eligibility for the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) bonus: Prescribers using e-prescribing can get up to 2% of Medicare fee for service charges as a bonus in 2009.
- GRIPA support: GRIPA provides local support, ready to come on site to the office if needed.
- Most local pharmacies, including Wegmans, are e-prescribing-enabled, so physician offices will also be able to receive electronic renewal requests from pharmacies.

Look for more information from GRIPA concerning this feature and training sessions that will be offered to ensure that each physician office enrolled in GRIPA Connect ePrescribing realizes its full benefits. For more information contact GRIPA Provider Relations at 585-922-1525.

There are currently more than 480 physicians signed up for GRIPA Connect Clinical Integration. Several physicians have recently enrolled. For a complete list visit the GRIPA Connect Web Portal.