



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHAIN DRUG STORES

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NACDS Praises Colorado E-prescribing Law to Help Prevent Opioid Abuse

Sixty-four percent of Colorado voters support e-prescribing requirement as a fraud and abuse prevention strategy

Arlington, Va.—The National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) today praised Colorado’s enactment of an electronic prescribing bill (SB19-079) that would require controlled substance prescriptions for Schedules II-IV to be submitted electronically, which will help in the fight against opioid abuse. Colorado Gov. Jared Polis (D) today signed the bill into law, which will become effective January 1, 2021.

NACDS recognizes the bipartisan leadership of Sen. Nancy Todd (D), Sen. Kevin Priola (R), Rep. Daneya Esgar (D) and Rep. Lois Landgraf (R). NACDS also lauds the Colorado Retail Council’s Angie Howes, who advocated for the proactive approach to opioid abuse prevention.

The legislation enjoys popular and nonpartisan support in the state for mandatory e-prescribing. A January 2019 survey, conducted by Morning Consult and commissioned by NACDS, found that 64 percent of Colorado registered voters support rules that all prescriptions must be handled electronically, rather than by paper or fax, to reduce the likelihood of fraud and abuse. Only 21 percent indicated opposition.

NACDS President and CEO Steven C. Anderson, IOM, CAE, said: “With the enactment of this legislation, Colorado has taken significant action to help curb the opioid abuse crisis.” He added, “Seventeen states have enacted e-prescribing legislation, which helps to increase security and curb waste, fraud and abuse. NACDS appreciates this important achievement in Colorado toward an even more comprehensive approach to the solution.”

President Trump in 2018 signed into law federal legislation—the *SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act*—which includes provisions of the NACDS-backed *Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act*. The new federal law requires electronic prescribing for Schedule II through V controlled substances prescriptions covered under Medicare Part D to help prevent fraud, abuse and waste – with limited exceptions to ensure patient access.

NACDS has been instrumental in advancing the use of electronic prescribing as a safeguard and was on the leading edge of working with the Drug Enforcement

Administration to allow electronic prescribing of controlled substances. Until 2010, it was not allowed.

The legislation is consistent with NACDS' [policy recommendations](#) to help address the opioid-abuse epidemic. These recommendations reflect pharmacists' firsthand experiences on the frontlines of care, as well as extensive collaboration with law enforcement and health professionals on the complex issue of opioid-abuse prevention.

In addition to e-prescribing, NACDS' recommendations involve drug disposal, prescription drug monitoring plans, and a seven-day supply limit on the first prescription of an opioid for a patient's acute – or temporary – pain.

The recommendations parallel consistent and ongoing pharmacy strategies to prevent opioid abuse, including compliance programs; drug disposal; patient education; security initiatives; fostering naloxone access; stopping illegal online drug-sellers and rogue clinics; and more.

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NACDS represents traditional drug stores, supermarkets and mass merchants with pharmacies. Chains operate over 40,000 pharmacies, and NACDS' over 80 chain member companies include regional chains, with a minimum of four stores, and national companies. Chains employ nearly 3 million individuals, including 157,000 pharmacists. They fill over 3 billion prescriptions yearly, and help patients use medicines correctly and safely, while offering innovative services that improve patient health and healthcare affordability. NACDS members also include more than 900 supplier partners and over 70 international members representing 21 countries. Please visit NACDS.org.

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