



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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April 2, 2021

ARNPs United of Washington State
Washington Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Washington State Dental Association
Washington State Hospital Association
Washington State Medical Association
Washington State Medical Group Management Association
Washington State Pharmacy Association
Washington State Podiatric Medical Association

Dear Association Partners:

I am writing you regarding the requirement stemming from Senate Bill 5380 in 2019 for all controlled substance prescriptions and refill authorizations to be electronically communicated to pharmacies starting January 1, 2021. This requirement is now codified in Chapter 69.50 RCW.

As you are aware, in June 2020, in response to the COVID crisis, former Secretary John Wiesman used the waiver authority contained in the bill to extend the implementation of the provisions of this bill until September 30, 2021.

The state continues to engage in recovery efforts from the pandemic; our collective focus is of the utmost importance. Moreover, given our understanding of and desire to work in concert with how e-prescribing requirements will be implemented at the federal level, I am exercising my authority under RCW 69.50.312(3) to further extend by waiver the required date of compliance with the electronic prescribing requirements in RCW 69.50.312(1) until January 1, 2022. At that time, all health care providers subject to the electronic prescribing requirement must either comply with RCW 69.50.312(1) or must meet at least one of the exemption criteria in RCW 69.50.312(2).

I want to thank you for your continued outstanding response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Washington State. I look forward to our ongoing partnership on this and many other issues that affect the health of people living in Washington State.

Sincerely,

Umair Shah, MD, MPH
Secretary of Health

cc: Amber Leaders, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
Kristin Peterson, Assistant Secretary, Health Systems Quality Assurance, Department of Health
Dr. Scott Lindquist, Acting State Health Officer, Department of Health
Christie Spice, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Department of Health
Martin Pittioni, Director, Office of Health Professions, Department of Health
Lauren Lyles, Executive Director, Pharmacy Commission, Department of Health