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Dear Doctor & Staff,

The DEA states that electronic prescribing of controlled substances becomes available June 1st. This is true only in the strictest sense of the words, in that requirements for eRx are published and go into effect on that date.

However, for transmission to actually happen all parties must be certified. The DEA defines what sort of companies can accomplish this, but these companies need to get processes and procedures in place and be approved first.

- 1) Doctors will need to be "identified" and receive a hard token of some sort or register a biometric that would be used to access prescribing software.
- 2) NewCrop (who provides the transmission of eScripts for PowerSoft) needs to be certified.
- 3) Pharmacies need to be certified.

The easiest part of this is the NewCrop certification. Pharmacies take a long time to change software, and there is likely to be much confusion and delay in registering for hard tokens.

Bottom line, you can work on getting your hard token now, but it will be a while before all the pieces are in place.

For more information:

http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/ecom/e_rx/faq/practitioners.htm