



NEWS RELEASE

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Prevea Goes Paperless With Prescriptions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREEN BAY, Wis. —*January 7, 2010*—Prevea Health has completed the final implementation phase of its e-prescription software, Surescripts®. The software allows physicians to send prescriptions over a secure internet connection directly to pharmacies. Now, most prescriptions written by Prevea physicians are sent electronically. This simple change reduces costs and error rates while increasing efficiency and patient safety. The software integrates seamlessly with Prevea Health's current Electronic Medical Records software, Epic, and is ahead of President Obama's Electronic Health Records incentive program, which begins in 2011. Prevea joins the 103,000 e-prescribing physicians in the country, or about 18% of office-based physicians nationwide.

Some benefits of the software include:

- **Reduced costs.** While Prevea's has had an EMR system for a few years, prescriptions still had to be faxed to pharmacies because there was no standard interface. The Surescripts® software provides that interface, reducing the need for paper or faxing equipment. The software also reduces the need for clarification phone calls between providers and pharmacies because of missing or illegible faxes, so staff can spend more time counseling patients.
- **Reduced errors.** Approximately 4.4 billion prescriptions are written in the U.S. annually, and according to the Institute of Medicine, preventable medication errors result in 7,000 deaths and 1.5 million injuries annually. While Prevea Health has maintained a very low error rate (between 0.2 and 0.5%), Surescripts® should reduce that number even further. The software automatically checks for potential risks such as improper dosages, medication allergies and drug to drug interactions. Furthermore, physicians pre-select from a list of medications and dosages updated monthly, so they have access to proper spellings and dosages at their fingertips.
- **Improved tracking methods.** The software has a 90-day tracking history, allowing physicians and pharmacists to see if a prescription needs to be refilled or if a patient may potentially be abusing the system.

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- **Reduced costs for patients.** The e-prescribing software can save patients money because it allows physicians to check the relative cost of co-payments for generic, formulary and non-formulary drugs in a patient's health plan. Previously, physicians did not have access to this information, which resulted patients not getting their prescriptions because of cost, and more often, many calls between the pharmacy, physicians, and insurance companies to get the prescription changed. Surescripts® allows physicians to see that information right away and make the best choice for the patient ahead of time.

Prevea Patients will not notice any difference in how their medications are handled.

There are some exceptions to the system as well, where the law has not kept up with technology. Current federal drug laws prohibit electronic prescribing of controlled medication such as narcotics, insomnia drugs and anti-depressants, which still require a hand-written prescription. Those laws are under review and expected to change soon.

Prevea Health's mission is to care for people with passion, pride, and respect. Founded in 1996, Prevea Health partners with St. Mary's and St. Vincent Hospitals in Green Bay, and St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan to provide access to more than 200 providers in over 50 specialty areas. Prevea's 20 locations are throughout metropolitan Green Bay and in Kewaunee, Marinette, Oconto, Plymouth, Pulaski, Seymour, Sheboygan and Sturgeon Bay. Visit www.prevea.com for more information.

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