CA State eRx Briefing

January 23, 2009

ePrescribing

ePrescribing is the computer-based electronic transmission of prescriptions between health care professionals and pharmacies; both mail and retail.

- ➤ Patient's pharmacy of choice.
- ➤ Decreases prescription errors caused by hard-to-read handwriting.
- ➤ Not only is this easier than paper prescriptions, but it also can improve patient safety and increase efficiency.

ePrescribing Offers

CalPERS

Physician at point-of-care

electronic prescription < 8 seconds

`<Patient Name> <Address> <DOB> <Drug Name> <Dosage> <Quantity> …`

Pharmacist

Electronic Prescriptions Offer Physicians:

➢ Patient's eligibility and formulary information

➢ Clinical information concerning drug efficacy and recommended dosage

➢ Safety alerts; e.g. drug-to-drug interactions, drug allergies

➢ Opportunity to discuss formulary compliance and generic substitution with patient while in examination room

e-Prescribing System Supports

- Prescriber-payer interactions such as:
    - Review of payer covered drug lists
    - Patient co-pay info
    - Eligibility information

- Prescriber-pharmacy interactions such as:
    - Transmitting a prescription (new Rx and renewals)
    - Checking to see if the medication has been picked up at the pharmacy (Rx fill messages)
    - Canceling an existing prescription (Rx Cancel)

Paper Prescriptions System

Current paper prescriptions are often written in the absence of patient's benefit information and medication history. Physicians could inadvertently prescribe a drug that is more costly, less effective, or more likely to adversely interact with other medications. The Institute of Medicine estimates that medication errors result in 1.5 million adverse drug events and 7,000 deaths causing at least $2 billion in additional hospital costs each year.

Benefits of e-Prescribing

e-Prescribing ensures that the medication prescribed is the safest and most effective choice for the patient

Value to prescribers

- **Reduce adverse drug events (ADE)**
  (avoidable ADE: 200,000 or $1 billion in hospital; 2 million or $3.5 billion in ambulatory setting, per *Health Affairs*)

- **Reduce calls/fax and inefficiencies**
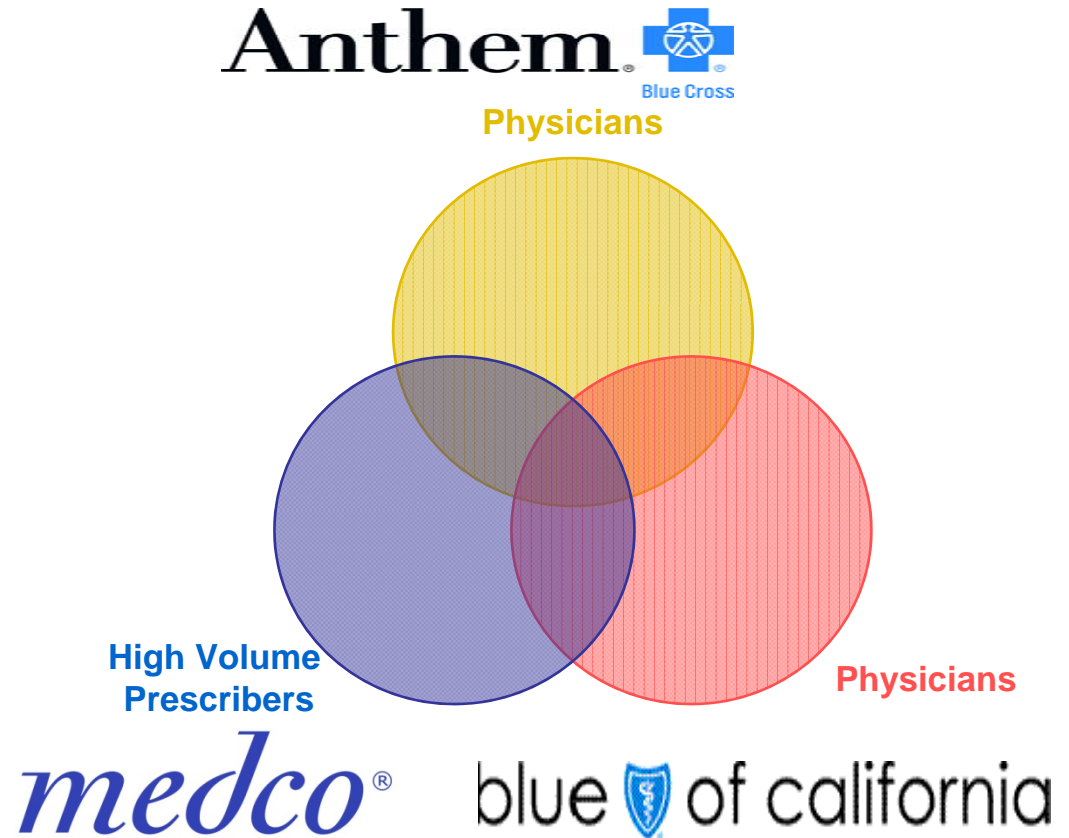 (8% of new prescriptions at mail require clarification call)

Value to patients

- **Improve patient safety**
  (~ 34% experienced a preventable medical error, per RxHub)

- **Improve patient experience**
  (> 32% patient customer service issues mitigated, per Milliman)

CalPERS eRx Pilot

CalPERS has initiated a pilot project on ePrescribing with our health plan partners: Anthem Blue Cross, Blue Shield of California, and Medco. The pilot will launch in the first quarter of 2009 and run through the end of the year.

Pilot Goal

➢ Determine and test a set of ePrescribing adoption strategies and best practices through collaboration with a selected set of participating physician groups

➢ Accelerate the adoption and use of ePrescribing by pilot physicians who serve CalPERS members, in an effort to enhance patient safety and quality of care resulting from the replacement of paper prescriptions

What Can You Do?

If you believe ----------

You can influence

- laws
- patients - consumers
- physicians and physician groups
- pharmacy and pharmacy groups
- purchasers - payers
- health plans
- pharmacy benefit managers
- contracts – agreements
- health care consultants