



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF e-HEALTH INITIATIVES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEB. 26, 2009

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Electronic Prescribing Training Goes West with Memphis Sessions

NASHVILLE - A statewide campaign to get health care providers ready to issue patient prescriptions electronically continues next week as Tennessee's Office of e-Health Initiatives hosts three electronic prescribing (e-prescribing) training sessions for health care providers in Memphis.

The Memphis training sessions will be held at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. The first session will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, in the Coleman Building, 956 Court Ave. The next two sessions will be from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., on Wednesday, March 4, in the General Education Building, 8 S. Dunlap St.

E-prescribing is the secure, electronic transmission, from a medical provider's computer to a pharmacist's computer, of a patient's prescription that needs to be filled or re-filled.

"Tennessee is moving rapidly from early adoption to mainstream adoption of electronic prescribing," said Governor Phil Bredesen. "To ensure that we continue to move forward, we must educate both providers and patients as to how electronic prescribing will improve health care costs, delivery and safety."

During the training session, attendees will learn: 1) How e-prescribing benefits providers, pharmacies and patients; 2) How to access the secure Tennessee e-Health Network; and 3) How to adopt e-prescribing into their everyday workflow for better patient care.

Pre-registration is required and attendees must be approved recipients of the Office of e-Health Initiatives' Physician Connectivity Grants.

To receive the grants, health care providers must agree to e-prescribe for two years. The Office of e-Health Initiatives has approved 1,830 health care providers in Tennessee as grant recipients.

The Office of e-Health Initiatives kicked off the e-prescribing training campaign in January and so far, has trained almost 200 grant recipients on e-prescribing.

The number of active electronic prescribers in Tennessee is 1,950, a 149 percent increase from 2007 and a 749 percent increase from 2006.

In 2008, Tennessee health care providers issued 1.5 million electronic prescriptions, representing three percent of all prescriptions written in the state.

The Office of e-Health Initiatives is the single coordinating authority for the exchange of electronic health information in Tennessee and works to improve the health of Tennesseans by ensuring providers have complete patient information at the point of care.

For more information on the Office of e-Health Initiatives, visit www.tn.gov/ehealth or call 615-532-5041.

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Better Health Information for Better Health for Tennesseans

Editor's Note: The e-prescribing training sessions are not open to the public. News media may attend the training sessions in Memphis and should contact Sheila Champlin, Director of Communications and Marketing for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, at 901-448-4957 or schampli@utmem.edu prior to visiting the campus.