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Alert

Governor Ducey Signs Legislation Extending Deadline for Electronic Prescribing of Opioids

Governor Ducey signed HB 2075 today that extends the requirement of electronic prescribing of opioids to January 1, 2020 for all Arizona counties. The bill also eliminates language from the Arizona Opioid Epidemic Act allowing the Arizona Board of Pharmacy to grant a waiver for the electronic prescribing requirement.

In a letter announcing the signing, Governor Ducey reaffirmed Arizona's commitment to combating the opioid epidemic and stressed a firm deadline for compliance with the electronic prescribing of opioids. "This bill removes a cumbersome waiver process which many providers opted for and replaces it with a clean and firm deadline for all providers – January 1, 2020."

The Arizona Board of Pharmacy received and granted more than 40,000 waivers to the electronic prescribing requirement. The removal of the waiver sets a level playing field for all Arizona providers, according to Connie Ihde, Health Current's Director of Programs who has led Health Current's *Click for Control* campaign aimed at assisting Arizona providers in becoming ready for electronic prescribing of controlled substances (EPCS). "All Arizona providers face a firm deadline of January 1, 2020 for becoming EPCS-ready. This means that all providers will need to work with their electronic health records (EHR) vendors to put in place a plan that will allow their practice to be EPCS-ready by next January," Ihde said.

More information on HB 2075 is available [here](#). Information on Health Current's *Click for Control* campaign is available [here](#).