



June 03, 2008

## American College of Cardiology Supports E-Prescription Mandate

The American College of Cardiology is separating itself from a number of other physician groups by favoring a mandate for Medicare physicians to adopt electronic prescriptions, *Modern Healthcare* reports.

ACC said it supports the mandate because it has moved quicker than other physician groups in embracing e-prescribing. Many cardiologists are part of large physician practices that already have adopted the technology, Jack Lewin, CEO of ACC, said.

A Senate Medicare bill likely will include a financial penalty for physicians who do not adopt e-prescribing technology, *Modern Healthcare* reports.

ACC supports increased reimbursements for e-prescribing rather than cuts. In a recent letter to the Senate Finance Committee, the group urged Congress to set the e-prescribing adherence deadline for Dec. 31, 2011.

"We've learned from those early adopters that we're seeing actual cost savings, in addition to improving patient safety," Lewin said.

Other physician groups -- such as the American Medical Association, Medical Group Management Association and American College of Physicians -- have voiced opposition to an e-prescribing mandate before the establishment of standards and incentives for adoption (Lubell, *Modern Healthcare*, 6/3).

© 1998-2008. All Rights Reserved. iHealthBeat is published daily for  
The California HealthCare Foundation by The Advisory Board Company.