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Electronic Prescribing Increasing, but Barriers Remain, Report Finds

Thirty-five million prescriptions were sent electronically in 2007, a 170% increase from 2006, but significant regulatory and cost barriers remain, according to a report released Wednesday by the eHealth Initiative and the Center for Improving Medicaid Management, *Modern Healthcare* reports (Conn, *Modern Healthcare*, 6/11).

The report, titled "Electronic Prescribing: Becoming Mainstream Practice," found that at least 35,000 prescribers are actively using e-prescribing technology, and it forecasts at least 85,000 active e-prescribers by the end of 2008.

However, only 2% of the prescriptions eligible for electronic routing in 2007 were transmitted electronically, according to the report.

Barriers to widespread e-prescribing adoption include financial obstacles, workflow and management changes, and the availability of patients' medication histories, according to the report.

The report's recommendations for increasing adoption of e-prescribing technology include:

- Replicating and expanding successful e-prescribing incentive programs;
- Lifting the Drug Enforcement Administration's ban on e-prescribing for controlled substances; and
- Creating a public-private, multi-stakeholder e-prescribing advisory board (Pizzi, *Healthcare IT News*, 6/11).

The [e-prescribing report](#) is available online (.pdf).

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