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HHS Secretary Calls on Large Payers To Mandate E-Prescribing

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt last week called on large health care payers, including Medicare and Medicaid, to require electronic prescribing, *Government Health IT* reports.

Leavitt in his [personal blog](#) wrote that the framework for e-prescriptions, including the creation of standards and the elimination of faxing prescriptions, has been established. However, he added that more work needs to be done.

"We need to do more, I think, including using our power as a payer to motivate the change," Leavitt said, adding, "The technology is readily available and widely distributed. Electronic prescribing will enhance the safety and convenience for patients."

American Health Information Community members at a meeting last week agreed to draft a recommendation to Leavitt on making e-prescribing mandatory for Medicare providers. Leavitt is the chair of AHIC.

AHIC's recommendation came after CMS released formulary and medication history standards that aim to improve prescription accuracy (McCloskey, *Government Health IT*, 11/19).

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