

# **DIGITAL CERTIFICATES**

# IdenTrust® EPCS Solution for eHR/eMR Applications



## IdenTrust certificates comply with ECPS requirements

- **DEA Compliant** IdenTrust IGC certificates are compliant with US. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) requirements for NIST SP 800-63 LOA 3 / IAL2 identity proofing and digital signing EPCS messages.
- Interoperable with eHR/eMR Applications IdenTrust collaborates with eHR/eMR providers to help them enable their applications for EPCS compliance.
- Easy to Obtain IdenTrust IGC certificates are available to prescribers via the IdenTrust secure website, providing convenient access and quick delivery of certificates via an online process.
- Choice of Storage Options IdenTrust offers both hardware and software storage certificates allowing users to choose the solution best suited to their needs.

## IdenTrust Offers:

- Complete identity solutions that are proven and fully certified
- Tools to enable pharmacies to use the latest prescription processing technology
- Access to our experienced team to help enable eHR/eMR applications to accept digital certificates and provide support after implementation
- The experience gained through maintaining relationships with all five DEA certified auditors

## The crisis: Prescription drug abuse

America is facing a national public health crisis, prescription drug abuse. Statistics show an average of 38 people die each day from prescription opioid overdose in 2019. As deaths from drug overdose continue to sky-rocket, there is an increasing need to focus on compliance and safety when prescribing controlled substances. Officials at all levels of government are enlisting the help of health IT professionals to use technology for the Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances – EPCS.

#### What is EPCS?

EPCS is a rule established by the DEA that allows pharmacies and practitioners to process prescriptions for controlled substances using certificates to digitally sign ePrescriptions and validate the signatures to ensure authenticity of the prescription. These regulations require two-factor authentication of prescribers, improving security and providing an audit trail for authorities. The use of EPCS is now allowed in all 50 states and as of 01/01/2022 is mandatory in 33 states with additional states in the process of mandating ECPS legislation.

#### **DEA regulations**

DEA regulations require identity proofing and the issuance of digital certificates used to digitally sign and electronically send prescriptions for controlled substances. To meet DEA mandates for EPCS, IdenTrust offers NIST SP 800-63 LOA3 / IAL2 identity proofing and IdenTrust Global Common (IGC) certificates. These certificates are cross-certified with the U.S. Federal Bridge and allow pharmacies and prescribers to process prescriptions for controlled substances using certificates to digitally sign ePrescriptions and validate the signatures to ensure authenticity.

## Two-Factor Authentication is required

ECPS two-factor authentication (2FA) requires that prescribers be surely bound to the 2FA device or approach. Devices used for EPCS are required to be validated at FIPS 140-2 Security Level 1 or higher and must be separate from the eHR/eMR application used by the prescriber.



The IdenTrust EPCS solution makes it easy for eHR/eMR providers to enable their applications to include solutions that meet DEA regulations for EPCS compliance. Benefits of EPCS compliance include:

- The use of two-factor authentication by prescribers results in improved security and the creation of an audit trail for authorities.
- Prescribers who use EPCS will realize a reduction in paperwork.
- The number of prescription errors and paper prescription forgeries will be reduced
- The use of EPCS can help to create a more positive patient experience since prescriptions are more likely to be filled by the time the patient arrives at their preferred pharmacy.
- EPCS helps both providers and pharmacies to manage and integrate prescriptions into other records, ultimately leading to increased efficiency while reducing overall costs.
- Prescribers have the ability to easily and cost-effectively comply with legislative mandates to use EPCS.

While EPCS is not the cure-all to solve the prescription drug abuse epidemic, it is undoubtedly a very useful tool that can be utilized to prevent drug diversion and doctor shopping.

#### • NIST SP 800-63 Level of Assurance 3 (LOA3 / IAL2) identity proofing **Specifications** IdenTrust IGC certificates for EPCS enable: eHR/eMR applications for EPCS Offering Digital signing Data encryption Use from multiple computers Retrieve certificate using common browsers: Microsoft® Edge Mozilla® Firefox Retrieval and Storage Install in a FIPS 140-2 Security Level 1 device: USB token Smart card Smart card and Omnikey® reader 1-, 2- and 3-year validity periods available Certificate Validity · Renewable online prior to certificate expiration, renewal fee applies Period Reuse purchased hardware device • Cross-certified with the U.S. Federal Bridge • X509 v3 digital certificates **Technical** • 2048+ bit key length **Specifications** SHA-256 hashing algorithm • Certificate Revocation List (CRL) and Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP) validation

IdenTrust provides each eHR/eMR with a dedicated web page located on identrust.com. This allows prescribers the convenience of applying for their digital certificate from the comfort of their office or home while providing assurance that their digital certificate is interoperable with their eHR/eMR application.

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