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NEWS BRIEF | 03.30.10

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) publishes an interim final rule to allow the use of electronic prescriptions for controlled substances

The DEA modified the interim final rule to include the ability to receive, dispense, and archive electronic prescriptions for controlled substances, which account for 20% of all prescriptions. Controlled substances are those that people may abuse or become dependent upon.

The rule will give pharmacies, hospitals, and practitioners the opportunity to eliminate paper processes and use e-prescribing for all prescriptions. This rule stands to reduce the amount of prescription errors due to hand-written prescriptions and decrease the wait time for prescriptions, while increasing efficiency.

The Federal Register has released the new version of the rule, which will be officially published on March 31, 2010.

To review the updated version of the interim final rule, [view the Federal Register](#).

NaviNet Survey finds EMR adoption to be on the rise for small physician practices

NaviNet, the largest real-time healthcare communications network, recently conducted a study surveying 269 physician practices with ten or fewer physicians. The survey analyzes EMR implementation over the last six months, the primary drivers of emr adoption, and the barriers that still exist.

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[View the NaviNet Press Release >>](#)

Thomson Reuters releases its annual survey 100 Top Hospitals: National Benchmarks 2009 Study on organizational performance

Thomson Reuters evaluated 2,926 short-term, acute care, and non-federal hospitals on their performance in various areas of healthcare. The study recognizes 100 true leaders in the industry for their demonstration of organizational effectiveness as well as delivery of high quality of care to the people they serve.

[View the study and the award recipients >>](#)

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