**Department of Public Health (DPH) has adopted final regulations relative to electronic prescribing – after successful advocacy led by MMS and in conjunction with other stakeholders**

The Medical Society is pleased to share that, after successful advocacy led by MMS and in conjunction with other stakeholders, the Department of Public Health (DPH) has adopted final regulations relative to electronic prescribing with significant amendments addressing MMS’ concerns.

The proposed regulations were originally intended to improve controlled substance safety and security by reducing prescription forgery and drug diversion, but, as written, prompted multiple concerns for MMS and others. In particular, MMS argued the breadth and inflexibility of the original regulations would have unnecessarily disrupted physicians’ practices and undermined patients’ access to care.

As such, MMS submitted extensive [written comments](http://www.massmed.org/Advocacy/State-Advocacy/Comments-Regarding-Proposed-Regulatory-Changes-to-%E2%80%9CStandards-for-Prescription-Format-and-Security-in-Massachusetts%E2%80%9D-%28105-Cmr-721-000%29-Regulations/#.XXvWEShKiUk) outlining our concerns with the proposed regulations and testified at a regulatory hearing earlier this summer.  DPH took these comments under advisement and adopted final regulations that addressed our primary concerns.

Specifically, the changes include:

* 1-year delay in implementation to Jan. 2021
* Full exemption of Schedule VI drugs (such as antibiotics) from all electronic prescribing requirements
* Four additional exceptions, and increased flexibility for emergent scenarios
* Broader language for the annual waiver process

MMS will provide additional guidance as we continue to process the newly promulgated regulations.