

**Summary**

Several pharmacy organizations say they support the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA's) efforts to allow electronic prescribing (e-prescribing) of controlled substances. In a joint letter released earlier this month, these organizations called for further clarification on the new e-prescribing rule, originally published in the Federal Register on March 31, 2010. Nearly all respondents believe that clinicians that are able to prescribe controlled substances should be able to use e-prescribing to do so. Improved workflow and enhanced patient safety were identified as the key benefits to using e-prescribing technologies when prescribing controlled substances. However, a lack of willingness to use e-prescribing technology by prescribers was also identified as a key barrier to future use of this technology. At present, approximately 40 percent of respondents noted that e-prescribing technology was in use at their organization.

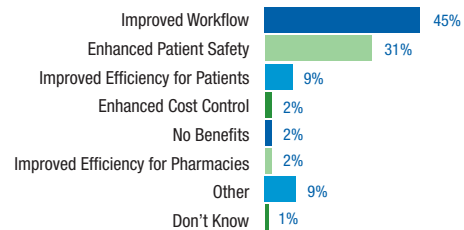
**Should Prescribers Be Able to Use e-Prescribing Technology for Controlled Substances?**

Nearly all respondents believe that clinicians able to prescribe controlled substances should be able to use e-prescribing technology to do so. Only four percent of respondents indicated that they did not believe this should be the case.



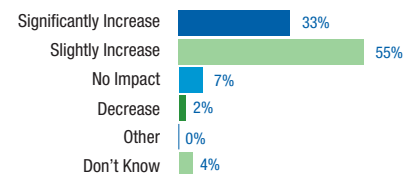
**Greatest Benefit to Using e-Prescribing Technology for Controlled Substances?**

Nearly half of respondents indicated that improved workflow would be the greatest benefit to allowing clinicians to prescribe controlled substances using e-prescribing technology. Another third of respondents identified enhanced patient safety as a benefit.



**Impact of DEA's Interim Final Rule on Use of e-Prescribing Technology**

Half of respondents indicated that the March 2010 interim final rule that addresses e-prescribing for controlled substances will have a slight increase in the use of e-prescribing. Another one-third of respondents believe that it will contribute to a significant uptick in e-prescriptions.



**Greatest Barrier to Implementing e-Prescribing at Healthcare Organizations**

While the biggest barrier to implementing e-prescribing technology in healthcare organizations was identified as a lack of willingness by prescribers to integrate the use of e-prescribing technology into their workflow, a similar percent (one-quarter) identified the cost of the technology as a key barrier.

