

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2008

Support E-Prescribing in Medicare
It Saves Lives, and Prevents Avoidable Medical Errors

Dear Colleague,

Improving the quality of health care in the U.S. is a top priority, and patient safety is an integral part of this. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) reports that 1.5 million avoidable adverse drug events occur every year in our country.

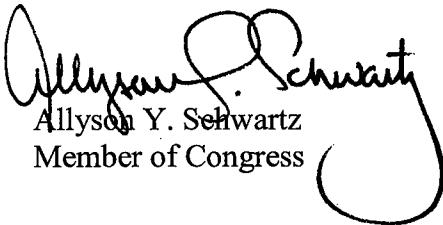
Avoidable errors of this magnitude are simply unacceptable. In addition to pain this can cause patients and their families, these errors cost us billions in unnecessary hospitalizations, lost earnings, and punitive damages for pain and suffering.

For this reason, we urge you to join us in supporting the Medicare Electronic Medication and Safety Protection (E-MEDS) Act of 2007 (H.R. 4296) -- bipartisan legislation to promote electronic prescribing in Medicare. The goal of this bill is to eliminate the medical errors, injuries, hospitalizations, and 7,000 deaths annually that can result from illegible prescriptions and bad drug interactions.

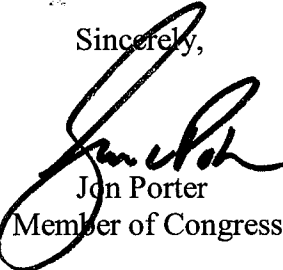
E-prescribing will get rid of that scratch pad the doctor uses to write unclear prescriptions and instead use modern technology to communicate prescriptions directly to pharmacists - it is a proven technology that will help to eliminate medical errors, injuries, hospitalizations, and even death, while saving the tax payers millions of dollars.

For further information or to co-sponsor The E-MEDS Act of 2007, please contact Kate Gross with Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz (x5-6111), Alanna Porter with Congressman Jon Porter (x5-3525), or Amy Fisher with Congresswoman Lois Capps (x5-5-3601).

Sincerely,



Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress



Jon Porter
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress