

Surescripts Medication History FAQs
February 23, 2015

What is medication history? *Surescripts Response:* Surescripts delivers the most comprehensive set of medication claims and pharmacy dispensing data available directly to the point of care, providing a more complete view to help: (1) manage the risk of adverse drug events, (2) enable more informed treatment decisions across care transitions, and (3) gain insight into patient medication adherence.

How is medication history accessed by prescribers? *Surescripts Response:* Surescripts delivers medication history information to providers during a patient's office visit through electronic prescribing and electronic health record (EHR) systems that are certified by Surescripts for the Medication History service. Surescripts securely accesses and aggregates patient medication history data from community pharmacies and patient medication claims history from payers and pharmacy benefit managers. Prescribers who can access critically important medication history information are better informed and can use this information to improve patient safety and prescription quality. Medication History data can indicate: (1) patient compliance with prescribed regimens, (2) therapeutic interventions, (3) drug-drug and drug-allergy interactions, (4) adverse drug reactions, and (5) duplicative therapy.

What are the sources of information for medication history? *Surescripts Response:* Surescripts builds its medication history files from two sources: (1) community retail pharmacy prescription dispensing records and (2) payer and pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) paid prescription claims data.

Is medication history a complete patient medication record? *Surescripts Response:* Surescripts' medication history data files are extensive, but they are not 100 percent complete. **If not, why not?** *Surescripts Response:* Not all pharmacies contribute prescription dispensing records, nor do all payers and PBMs contribute paid medication claims data, to the Surescripts medication history data feed. When these two data streams are combined, they tend to fill the gaps from the other source, but the combined medication history product still contains some data gaps. Medication history also excludes over the counter medications when a prescription drug benefit isn't used (e.g. many over-the-counter products, instances when a patient pays with cash). Prescribers are informed that this is the case when accessing their medication history interfaces.

Does Surescripts have a medication history portal on their website making these data available to all prescribers? *Surescripts Response:* No, this has never been the case. Surescripts does not have a medication history portal on its website making medication history data available to all prescribers. However, prescribers with Internet access can sign up with one of several free electronic prescription vendors to get access to the medication history product as part of the e-prescribing process.

Do all e-prescribing systems include medication history? Do all vendors' e-prescribing products used by prescribers to send electronic prescriptions facilitate access to medication history? Does every prescriber who sends an e-prescription to a pharmacy have access to medication history? *Surescripts Response:* While it is believed that prescriber access to medication history via an e-prescribing or EHR application is widespread due to Federal Meaningful Use Criteria, Surescripts does not have reliable statistics with which to answer the above three questions.

What is included in medication history? Product name, manufacturer, NDC, etc.? *Surescripts Response:* The Surescripts pharmacy dispensed record data sources routinely provide the following data elements:

- Patient: First and last names, gender, date of birth address, and telephone number
- Pharmacy: NCPDPIID
- Prescriber: First and last names, address, and NPI
- Prescription: Prescription number, fill number, NDC number, medication name, quantity dispensed, days supply, date written, date filled, and number of refills originally authorized.

The manufacturer name is not part of the Surescripts medication history dataset, but using an NDC number it is possible to ascertain the name of the manufacturer.

How would a pharmacist know if a prescriber has access to medication history? *Surescripts Response:* There is no reliable way for a pharmacist to know this information without querying the prescriber in question.

Is there a database that pharmacists can check to see if a prescriber has access to medication history? *Surescripts Response:* No, there is not.

What are the access points for prescribers to review medication history? What if their systems are "down", how do prescribers find the information? *Surescripts Response:* The only access point is through Surescripts-certified e-prescribing or EHR software systems. If the software is "down" or otherwise unavailable, there currently is not an alternative path or product available for prescribers to use to access the data.

Are insulin products for which a prescription is not required included in medication history? *Surescripts Response:* Insulin products, like all other prescription drugs labeled and dispensed by pharmacies and/or paid for by payers and PBMs, would be included. Insulin products purchased over the counter would not be included in Surescripts medication history.

Is there a cost involved to pharmacies to notify via medication history? *Surescripts Response:* No, there is not.

Is there a cost to prescribers to access those notifications? *Surescripts Response:* No, there is not.