

An unintended consequence of electronic prescriptions: prevalence and impact of internal discrepancies.

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Palchuk MB, Fang EA, Cygielnik JM, et al. An unintended consequence of electronic prescriptions: prevalence and impact of internal discrepancies. J Am Med Inform Assoc. 2010;17(4):472-6. doi:10.1136/jamia.2010.003335.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/unintended-consequence-electronic-prescriptions-prevalence-and-impact-internal-discrepancies>

Electronic prescriptions offer significant [safety advantages](#) in the outpatient setting, in part through use of [decision support systems](#) such as standardized dosage and frequency instructions. However, this study found that allowing clinicians to enter free-text instructions in addition to standardized instructions introduced a significant risk of error, particularly for medications already considered high risk. This study adds to a growing body of literature on the [unintended consequences](#) of [computerized order entry](#) and electronic prescribing.