

# TENNESSEE

## Office of eHealth Initiatives

Better health information for better health for Tennesseans

July 2009

## Tennessee in Top 5 Most Improved for Electronic Prescribing

Governor Phil Bredesen joined Vermont Governor Jim Douglas, Surescripts CEO Harry Totonis and numerous public and private health care delegates for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Safe-Rx Award ceremony on June 22, in Washington D.C.

Surescripts recognized Tennessee's electronic prescribing progress in being second in its national list of the top five most improved electronic prescribing states. Tennessee joins Illinois, Kansas, Missouri and Vermont on the top five list.

The recognition is the result of Tennessee moving up to No. 18 on the 2008 state-by-state rankings of electronic prescribing activity. In 2007, Tennessee was at No. 29.

"This is a great recognition of Tennessee's leadership in taking e-prescribing into the mainstream," Bredesen said. "I am encouraged that our state's e-prescribing advances show patients and providers how health information technology will improve health care costs, delivery and safety."

The National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) and Surescripts created the Safe-Rx Award to raise awareness of e-prescribing as a means of enhancing patient safety by providing a more secure, accurate and informed prescribing process.

"Tennessee's jump in the state rankings from 29th to 18th is testament to the impact that Governor Bredesen and key organizations throughout the state are having on e-prescribing adoption and use," Totonis said. "This benefits the economy, safety and quality of patient care in communities throughout Tennessee. We hope that their example will inspire and inform many more successful efforts in many more states in the year ahead."

Tennessee finished 2008 with 1,605 electronic prescribers, representing a 144 percent increase over 2007, with 1,120 pharmacies in the state accepting prescriptions electronically.

Tennessee health care providers issued more than 1,788,000 prescriptions in 2008, representing more than 4 percent of all prescriptions written in the state.

For more information about the Safe-Rx Award, and to view state-by-state e-prescribing rankings, visit the Safe-Rx Web page at [www.surescripts.com/Safe-Rx](http://www.surescripts.com/Safe-Rx).



Members of Tennessee's e-health delegation join Governor Phil Bredesen for the June 22 Safe-Rx Ceremony in Washington D.C. First Row (l to r): Ann Manning, Cumberland Pediatric Foundation; Liesa Jenkins, Carespark; Governor Bredesen; Jennifer Ditty, Cumberland Pediatric Foundation; Melissa Hargiss, Office of e-Health. Back Row (l to r): Katie Allen, Cumberland Pediatric Foundation; Baeteena Black, Tennessee Pharmacists Association; Commissioner Dave Goetz, Department of Finance and Administration.



Part of the day-long e-Health stakeholder meeting involved small group discussions that allowed participants to cover critical topics in the Manatt report, such as clinical framework, financials, governance and policies and standards.

## E Health Stakeholders Gather for Manatt Presentation

Representatives from Manatt Health Solutions recently presented its report to the e-Health Advisory Council, and other Tennessee e-health stakeholders, on how the state can best leverage its electronic health strengths, and be positioned to take advantage of the health information technology opportunities presented in the federal stimulus package.

More than 60 attendees came to Nissan's North American headquarters in Franklin, Tennessee.

During the presentation, Manatt representatives covered their process for creating and compiling the report, which included conducting impartial interviews with state health care stakeholders, getting input on the progress of statewide e-health activities and gathering opinions about future direction of e-health in Tennessee.

"Stakeholders from across the state validate the report's principle finding: the health care needs of all Tennesseans would be well served by creating a non-for-profit entity to coordinate some state-wide e-health initiatives," said Mark Frisse, M.D., director of regional initiatives at the Vanderbilt Center for Better Health and steering committee member. "This group will strive to make sure federal and state dollars are used to best empower individuals, local providers and community organizations."

A 10-member steering committee of primarily private sector health care stakeholders, with three public sector representatives, is in place to work on issues related to creating the not-for-profit.

"Our work will be a natural evolution of Governor Bredesen's e-Health Advisory Council and the progress it has made in advancing e-health in our state," said Dawn Fitzgerald, CEO of QSource and steering committee member. "We recognize the broad support we have and also the need to knit together, support and empower regional e-health efforts."

### Steering Committee Members

- ◆ **Mark Bengel**, Tennessee Department of Finance & Administration, Chief Information Officer
- ◆ **Dawn Fitzgerald**, QSource, Chief Executive Officer
- ◆ **Dr. Mark Frisse**, Vanderbilt Center for Better Health, Director of Regional Initiatives
- ◆ **Dave Goetz**, Tennessee Department of Finance & Administration, Commissioner
- ◆ **Robert S. Gordon**, Baptist Memorial Health Care, Executive Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer
- ◆ **Dr. Veronica Gunn**, Tennessee Department of Health, Chief Medical Officer
- ◆ **Mary Lane Van Cleave**, Tennessee Hospital Association, Chief Operating Officer
- ◆ **Dr. B.W. Ruffner**, Tennessee Medical Association, President-elect
- ◆ **David H. Sensibaugh**, Eastman Chemical Company, Director of Integrated Health
- ◆ **Randall Sermons**, Attorney at Law

# e-Health Office Wraps Successful e-Prescribing Training Campaign

After five months on the road, Office of e-Health representatives estimate they trained more than 350 health care providers during the e-Health's statewide electronic prescribing training earlier this year.

e-Health kicked off the campaign in Cookeville in January and hosted 20 training sessions overall, targeting providers in each of Tennessee's grand divisions.

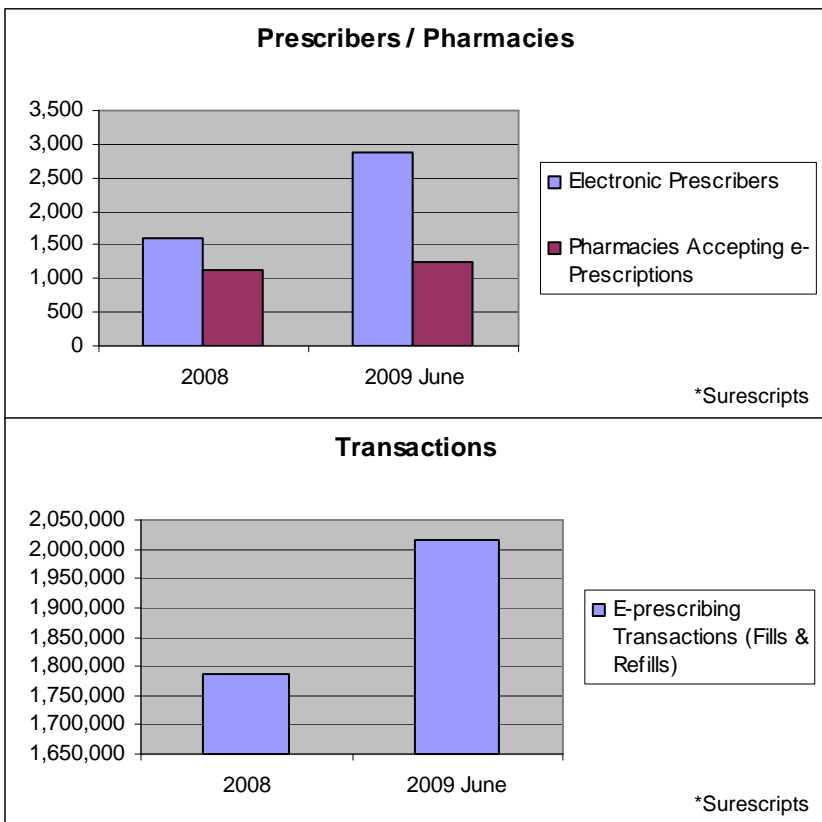
Attendees at the sessions were approved recipients of e-Health's Physician Connectivity Grants.

"Our approved grant recipients have agreed to e-prescribe for two years and e-Health wants to help them meet this requirement with our education and training initiative," said Melissa Hargiss, e-Health director.

e-Health has approved 1,981 health care providers, and more than 400 treatment sites, in Tennessee as grant recipients.

Grant funding is currently exhausted for the program; however providers interested can join a waiting list should additional funding become available. For more information, click the Grants link at [www.tn.gov/ehealth](http://www.tn.gov/ehealth).

## Tennessee e-Prescribing Stats\*



## In the News

### Tennessee on most improved list for prescription e-filing (Memphis Biz Journal)

Tennessee is among the top five states that have most improved electronic prescribing programs and was recognized in Washington today by Surescripts, the nation's largest digital health information network. <http://memphis.bizjournals.com/memphis/stories/2009/06/22/daily5.html?surround=lfm&ana=test>

### Doctors Say Electronic Data-Sharing Is Saving Lives, Money (Kaiser Health News)

When a 27-year-old pregnant woman arrived in the emergency department of a hospital here complaining of severe abdominal pain, doctors suspected a miscarriage. But the diagnosis quickly changed after the woman's medical records were retrieved from a secure Web site. <http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2009/June/22/Memphis.aspx>

### Majority of U.S. adults 'e-patients' (Scripps Howard News-Service)

There's no doubt that electronic communication - one-way, two-way, multiple-way - continues to change the health care landscape. But recent research shows that not all innovations are equal, and plenty of patients and doctors alike remain uneasy about letting things get too impersonal. <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/jun/21/majority-of-us-adults-e-patients/>

### Electronic Prescribing Increasing Despite Glitches

Dr. Marek Durakiewicz initially welcomed the opportunity to send prescriptions to drugstores electronically, using free computer equipment provided by a state pilot program. The chief of staff at Hickman Community Hospital in Centerville, Tenn., Durakiewicz recognized the potential benefits of "e-prescribing". <http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2009/June/29/eprescribe.aspx>