



JAMES L. MADARA, MD
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

ama-assn.org
t (312) 464-5000

January 26, 2015

The Honorable Howard A. Zucker, MD, JD
Acting Commissioner
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower Building
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Re: American Medical Association urges immediate delay for mandate to electronically prescribe controlled substances in New York

Dear Acting Commissioner Zucker:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and physician and medical student members, I am writing to urge you to take immediate action to help protect New York's patients. The AMA joins the Medical Society of the State of New York and all of the health care and patient organizations to raise attention to the concerns surrounding the e-prescribing mandate that is scheduled to go into effect on March 27, 2015.

Specifically, we strongly recommend that you suspend enforcement of the law for at least one year until all of the operational, technical and patient care concerns are fully resolved. We understand that the intent behind the mandate is to help provide a more secure, safer environment to prescribe, dispense and track controlled substances. The mandate, however, does not take into account the real disruption that will occur to patients if the mandate is allowed to go forward.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Daniel Blaney-Koen, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at daniel.blaney-koen@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4954.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Madara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: The Medical Society of the State of New York