



Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

NEWS

Office of the Governor

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, State House, Providence, RI 02903

www.governor.ri.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, June 23, 2009

CONTACT: Amy Kempe
222-8290

Rhode Island Receives Its Fourth SafeRx Award

Governor Donald I. Carcieri is pleased to announce that Rhode Island has received a SafeRx award for the fourth consecutive year. This award marks the fourth year Rhode Island has been one of the top states in the nation. The SafeRx award recognizes the 10 states who lead the nation in e-prescribing. The ranking is based on the number of eligible prescriptions that are transmitted electronically.

“This award highlights the continued efforts and progress Rhode Island has made in increasing the adoption of electronic prescribing among healthcare providers and pharmacies,” said Governor Carcieri. “This success has resulted in marked improvements to patient safety.”

“Collaboration has been key to the success of this endeavor,” said Director of Health David R. Gifford, MD MPH. “Efforts like this, which are organized by the Rhode Island Quality Institute's (RIQI) Statewide Electronic Prescribing Committee, continue to promote coordination among numerous organizations who want to promote the adoption of electronic prescribing.”

The RIQI Statewide E-Prescribing Committee, chaired by the Director of HEALTH, monitors the state's e-prescribing performance goals. As of May 2009, data show that 54 % of prescribers in the state are using electronic prescribing for new or renewal prescriptions. Ninety-nine percent of retail pharmacies in the state are capable of receiving e-prescriptions.

"Electronic prescribing has the potential to improve the quality of patient care and increase the efficiency of the health care system," said RIQI President and CEO Laura Adams. "It saves time for healthcare providers and eliminates illegible handwriting and other safety risks for patients."

- more -

-2-2-2-2-

The SafeRx award is an annual award given by the National Association of Community Pharmacists, the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, and SureScripts, the company that administers the network connecting physician offices and pharmacies for e-prescribing. The award is given in recognition of outstanding leadership that have helped make the prescribing of medication as safe and efficient as possible.

#