Opioids kill nearly one hundred people per day in America and the death rate is rising dramatically. As the crisis of addiction and overdose continues to accelerate, it is estimated that opioids could kill nearly half a million Americans by 2027. Beyond the immeasurable pain to families, the overdoses will cost the U.S. economy hundreds of billions of dollars.¹

Electronic Prescription of Controlled Substances (EPCS) is now a valid prescribing method for controlled drugs in all 50 states. EPCS helps with the fight by:

- Reducing fraud associated with fake prescription pads;
- Eliminating forgery associated with wet ink signatures;
- Mitigating doctor shopping when used in conjunction with Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs); and
- Providing a secure electronic trail of accountability for prescribed controlled drugs, helping to reduce over-prescribing or fraudulent prescribing by some prescribers.

Aprima and IdenTrust
Aprima has embraced EPCS to help fight the opioid epidemic. To prescribe controlled drugs through the Aprima EHR system, prescribers must be identity-proofed and obtain authentication credentials in compliance with the DEA rules. Aprima has established a relationship with IdenTrust, a Certification Authority, who provides the remote identity-proofing and required two-factor authentication credentials. IdenTrust tightly binds identity-proofing and the authenticator issuance process in a DEA-compliant manner, ensuring prescribers are in full compliance when using EPCS. IdenTrust hardware credentials are supported in the Aprima EHR system.

Prescriber and Patient Benefits
Prescribers can join in the fight against opioid abuse by embracing the use of EPCS. Prescribers will also benefit by reducing time spent on calls with the pharmacy verifying drug names or dosages, rewriting prescriptions that have been lost by patients and handling pharmacy and patient refill requests. Patients will appreciate the convenience of having their prescription ready for pick-up when arriving at their local pharmacy.

Take Action – Using EPCS is Easy!

¹https://www.statnews.com/2017/06/27/opioid-deaths-forecast/