

# NEW 10.6 SUNSET DATE

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

These FAQs are designed to address questions regarding the new 10.6 Sunset Date announcement sent to Surescripts customers on June 1, 2020.

### 1. What is the NCPDP SCRIPT Standard v2017071?

The NCPDP SCRIPT Standard is the electronic prescribing (e-prescribing) standard created to facilitate the transfer of prescription data between pharmacies, prescribers, intermediaries, facilities, and payers.

The previous version of the standard, NCPDP SCRIPT Standard v10.6, is being replaced by the updated standard version, NCPDP SCRIPT Standard v2017071. This updated standard version was adopted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on April 16, 2018 (the published Final Rule date) as the official Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit e-prescribing standard.

### 2. What was the original sunset date, and why was it extended?

The original sunset date was December 1, 2020. This date was announced on December 10, 2018. This original sunset date has been extended to **September 1, 2021** to allow those end users who are fully dedicated to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic additional time to complete their migration to a software that has been certified for NCPDP SCRIPT standard 2017071 and begin utilizing the new standard.

The new **SCRIPT Version 10.6 sunset date of September 1, 2021** provides additional time for those who are on the front lines dealing with COVID-19. To our knowledge, CMS has not extended the NCPDP SCRIPT standard v2017071 certification deadline of January 1, 2020.

### 3. How did Surescripts determine the new sunset date?

Over the last several months, we solicited and received feedback from more than 85% of our network participants and analyzed available clinical and regulatory information to establish a new sunset date for SCRIPT Version 10.6. As we begin to see signs of recovery in some areas of the country, it's clear the pandemic has caused at least a 4- to 6-month period of disruption for many end-users. In an effort to accommodate this unprecedented disruption in healthcare, we are extending our sunset deadline by nine months. **The new SCRIPT Version 10.6 sunset date is September 1, 2021.**

This new date accomplishes two important goals:

- It provides organizations on the front lines time to re-prioritize and complete the process.
- It establishes a clear and unambiguous date to minimize migration delays, so that everyone can benefit from the new standard.

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#### 4. What if a second wave of COVID-19 hits in the fall?

Surescripts has extended the sunset date by nine months to provide organizations on the front lines time to re-prioritize and complete the certification and migration process.

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#### 5. The revised sunset date is nearly two years beyond the CMS compliance date of January 1, 2020. Why did Surescripts not enforce the CMS date?

Our interpretation of the CMS guidance announced on May 9, 2018 is that it includes an acknowledgement that NCPDP SCRIPT Standard v10.6 might continue to be used after January 1, 2020 to mitigate any implementation issues, and that CMS does not expect anyone to be penalized as a result.

From that guidance we provided a two-year advance notice of the sunset date of the NCPDP SCRIPT Standard v10.6. That original sunset date has now been extended to allow those end users who are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic additional time to complete their migration and begin utilizing the new standard.

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#### 6. We were in the process of achieving certification before the COVID-19 pandemic impacted our momentum. What is the best way for us to restart the process with Surescripts?

If you reallocated resources from completing the certification process to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, you should immediately contact your Surescripts Account Manager to resume the certification process. You may be out of compliance with CMS, and if certification is not completed, your end-users could experience significant disruption. We are ready to assist you in completing your certification process and the utilization of the new standard by your end-users.

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#### 7. Until the entire network has migrated to the new SCRIPT standard there can be a difference between the standards used by senders and receivers of messages. How does this impact the accuracy and reliability of these transactions?

Customers will upgrade to the Surescripts products that support the new NCPDP SCRIPT Standard v2017071 at different points in time. This means that it will be necessary for Surescripts to provide a translation of messages between versions until all of the Surescripts Network Alliance™ participants have upgraded to the new standard.

Surescripts' provision of the message translation services, up until the new sunset date, will allow customers to successfully send and receive messages regardless of the NCPDP SCRIPT Standard version they are using. And to minimize disruption, translation will occur behind the scenes with minimal impact to end users.

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**8. Does this date include the Electronic Prior Authorization NCPDP SCRIPT standard 2017071 migration?**

No. This date does not apply to the Electronic Prior Authorization NCPDP SCRIPT standard v2017071 migration.

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**9. Why should I be concerned about Electronic Prescribing for Controlled Substances (EPCS) and certification to the NCPDP SCRIPT standard v2017071?**

If customers do not complete migration to the NCPDP SCRIPT Standard v.2017071 by the sunset date of September 1, 2021, their end users may need to revert to writing paper or faxing prescriptions. Due to certain state and federal EPCS regulations, this may prohibit end users from being able to prescribe controlled substances.