EPCS: Complex DEA regulations require a comprehensive solution, not just a token

Imprivata Enterprise Access Management (formerly OneSign and Confirm ID) vs. token-only solutions

As you consider electronic prescribing for controlled substances (EPCS), it is critical to understand the full scope of the DEA requirements that your organization and providers must meet. Without a complete understanding of the DEA regulations, you are more likely to put your organization at risk of non-compliance and leave your providers vulnerable to fraud.

For example, one requirement is two-factor authentication, and as a result, some organizations consider traditional token solutions to be enough to enable EPCS. But the DEA requirements are much more complex, and Imprivata Enterprise Access Management (formerly OneSign and Confirm ID) is purpose-built as the most comprehensive, end-to-end solution for meeting EPCS requirements while ensuring a fast, efficient workflow for your providers.

DEA requirements for EPCS

The DEA's goal is to ensure the integrity, authentication, and non-repudiation for controlled substance prescriptions (in a manner consistent with maintaining effective controls against diversion). To accomplish this, the DEA has a number of additional unique and specific requirements for EPCS.
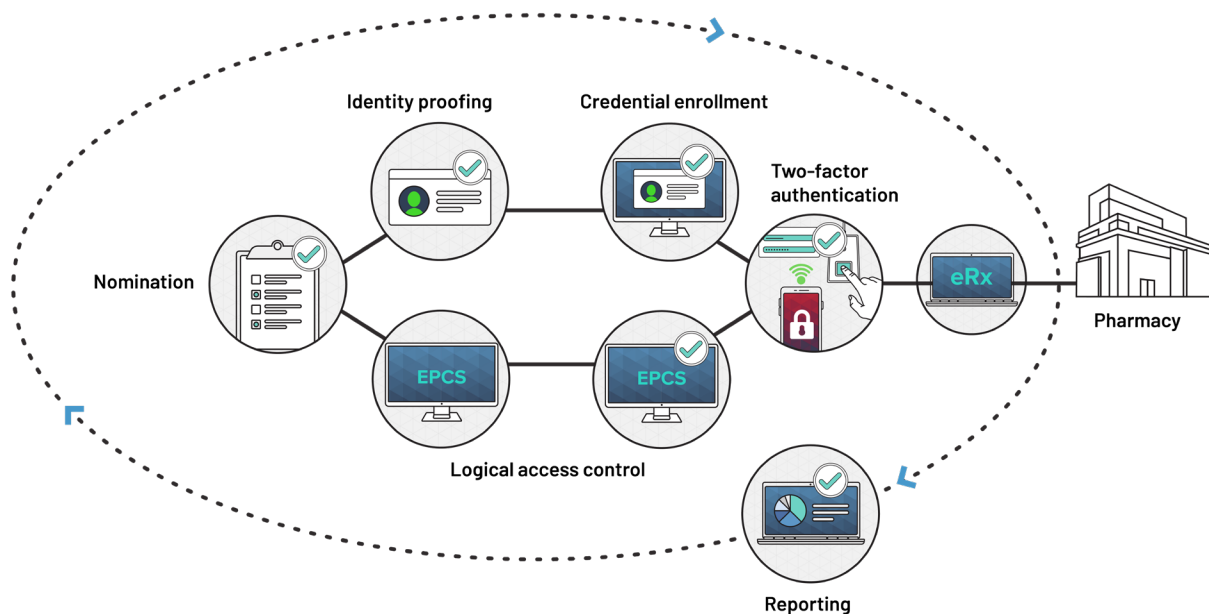
Token solutions are not enough to meet EPCS requirements

Because the DEA requirements are so unique and complex, token solutions are not sufficient for EPCS.

Relying on a token solution will leave you to develop disparate, often manual processes for meeting the identity proofing, credential enrollment, logical access control approval, and additional EPCS requirements, all while making sure you can produce the records necessary to establish a complete audit trail.

And even then, a token solution leaves your providers with a sub-par workflow experience – they will have only one option for two-factor authentication (password + token), which limits flexibility and does not allow for backup.

Conversely, Enterprise Access Management (EAM) is the most comprehensive, end-to-end solution for meeting all the DEA requirements for EPCS, including identity proofing and credential enrollment, logical access controls approval, two-factor authentication, and reporting. EAM also offers the broadest set of innovative and convenient two-factor authentication options to give providers a fast, convenient, and secure EPCS workflow.

The chart below compares EAM to token-only vendors, outlining why EAM is the most complete solution for EPCS and why Imprivata is the most strategic partner for helping you comply with DEA requirements:

	Enterprise Access Management	Token vendors
DEA EPCS compliance requirements		
Two-factor authentication	✓	✓
Standalone identity proofing application and workflow	✓	
Role-based supervised enrollment of two-factor authentication credentials with audit trail for institutional identity proofing	✓	
Role-based logical access controls approval	✓	
Online identity proofing and credential enrollment with audit trail for individual credentialing	✓	
Detailed audit records and reports for identity proofing, credential enrollment, logical access approval, and daily incidents	✓	

	Enterprise Access Management	Token vendors
EPCS workflow		
Push token notification	✓	✓
FIPS-compliant fingerprint biometric authentication	✓	
Hands Free Authentication	✓	
Facial recognition for EPCS from a mobile device	✓	
Signing UI automatically adapts to present only available and allowed authentication methods	✓	
Manages both factors of authentication (not just the second)	✓	
Heightened self-enrollment of authentication credentials	✓	
Integration into EPCS workflow of all leading EHRs and e-prescribing applications	✓	

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For more information, please contact us at 1 781 674 2700
or visit us online at www.imprivata.com

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