



# Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Management and RxHub

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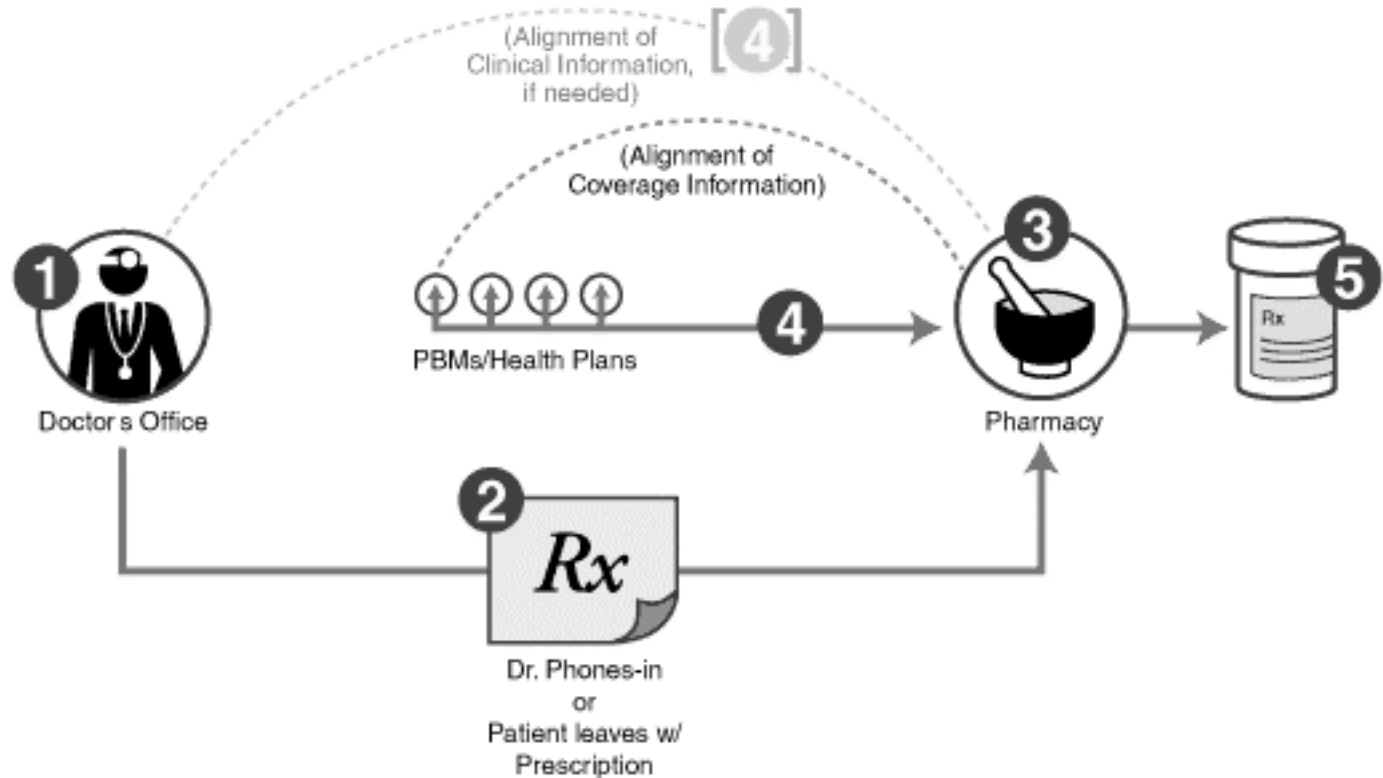
## What is RxHub?

- A technology-based company formed by Industry leaders AdvancePCS, Express Scripts and Merck-Medco announced on February 22, 2001.
- An electronic exchange that would link physicians, pharmacies, pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), and health plans.
- RxHub will develop a standardized electronic prescription process that is designed to become a valuable healthcare tool benefiting all healthcare stakeholders.
- RxHub will work with industry standards setting organizations to make the process an open standard.



# Prescription Writing Today

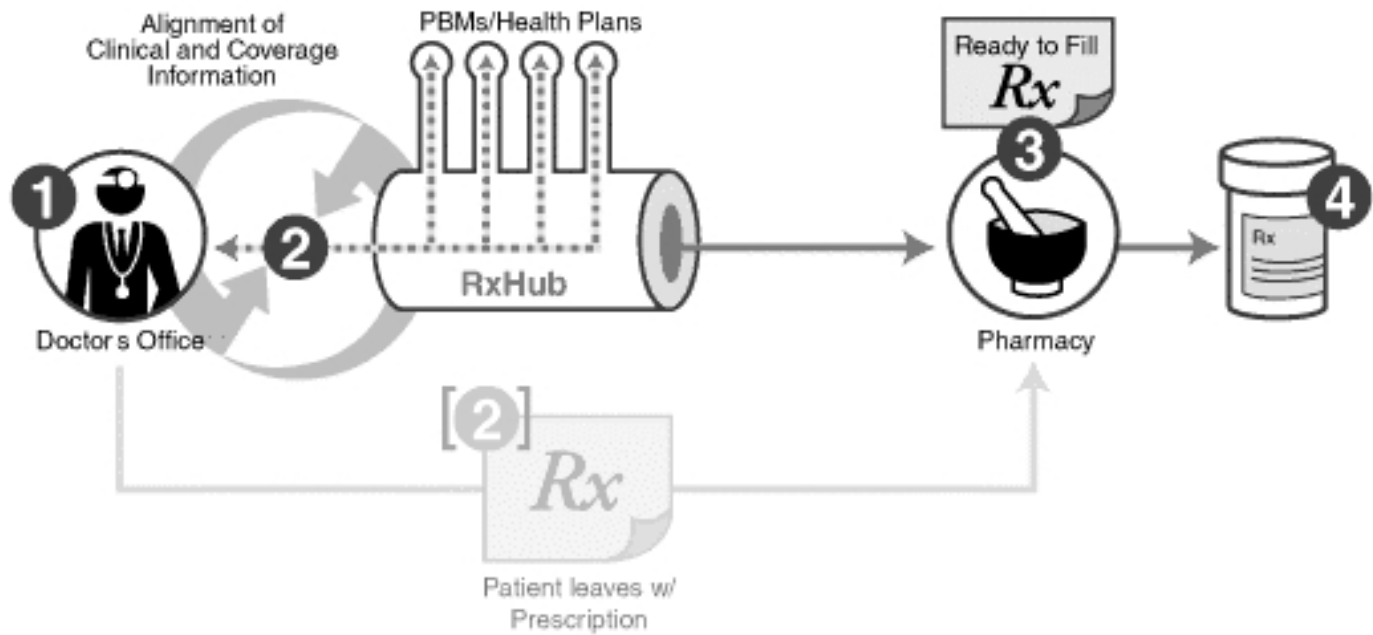
## Today





# Prescription Writing tomorrow with RxHub

## Tomorrow





# Problems facing Pharmacies today

Misfilled Prescriptions-Florida Personal Injury - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address <http://www.voiceoftheinjured.com/prescriptions.html>

Visit Our New Fan-Phen Litigation Site

**voiceoftheinjured.com**  
PERENICH, CARROLL, PERENICH, AVRIL & CAULFIELD, P.A.  
SITE SEARCH CONTACT US OUR FIRM YOUR CLAIM

Home >> FAQs >>  
**Misfilled Prescriptions**

**CALL 1-800-5 FLA-LAW**

**ASK AN ATTORNEY FREE OF CHARGE**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. Are mistakes in the filing of prescriptions happening more frequently now?
2. What are believed to be the causes of the increasing number of errors by pharmacists and pharmacies?
3. What are the kinds of errors that occur when prescriptions are misfilled?
4. What are the consequences of a prescription being misfilled with a totally incorrect and unintended drug?
5. Is the misfilling of a prescription always detected by someone after the initial error is made?
6. Who is legally responsible for the misfilling of a prescription that causes injury or death?
7. Are there other acts of pharmacists or pharmacies that may harm patients?
8. How is a case prosecuted against a pharmacy or pharmacist?

**Related Articles**

- [Confuse Prescriptions Misfilled With Blood Thinner Coumadin - Result: Brain Hemorrhage & Death](#)
- [Highly Sensitive Cases Misfilled Prescriptions](#)
- [How Your Pharmacist Is Supposed To Fill Your Prescription Order](#)
- [Lax Prescription Misfilled by Pharmacy - Heart Attack and Death - Confidential Washington Settlement](#)
- [Misfilled Prescription May Lead To Liability To Doctor Who Administered Drug To It Mother](#)
- [Pharmacist Worked North Carolina Board of Pharmacy](#)
- [Florida Medical Malpractice Pre-Got Requirements Held Not Applicable To Pharmacists and Pharmacies](#)
- [The Pharmacy's Duty To Reduce Misfilled Prescription Error By Its Pharmacists](#)
- [Dangerous Prescription Error Lead to Hospital Deaths & Litigation](#)
- [FDA Workshop: Minimizing Medical Product Errors - A Systems Approach](#)
- [Prescription Errors Due To Similar Drug](#)

# Physician Needs

- **Doctors are most likely to embrace a unified solution for prescription writing that covers all of their practice**
  - they are not likely to use a service that only serves part of their practice
- **Doctors are not likely to utilize multiple different services for prescription entry and routing**
- **Physicians & patients generally do not know the name of the PBM that provides their drug benefit**
  - there needs to be an simple way to “map” patients to the appropriate PBM and their specific plan design from a common platform (eligibility solution)
  - a centralized platform provides the infrastructure to link patients with the appropriate PBM and plan information without significant efforts from the physician or his office staff



## Primary Concept of RxHub

- RxHub will create an exchange that will provide a single industry source for eligibility information to be used by POC vendors and others offering electronic prescription writing capabilities
- RxHub will encourage full participation by all PBMs
- RxHub will offer a framework and a transport mechanism for the development of a prescription writing solution to physicians for all patients, perhaps even including those without a drug coverage benefit
- RxHub will drive electronic prescription writing utilization by providing a framework that works for all patients

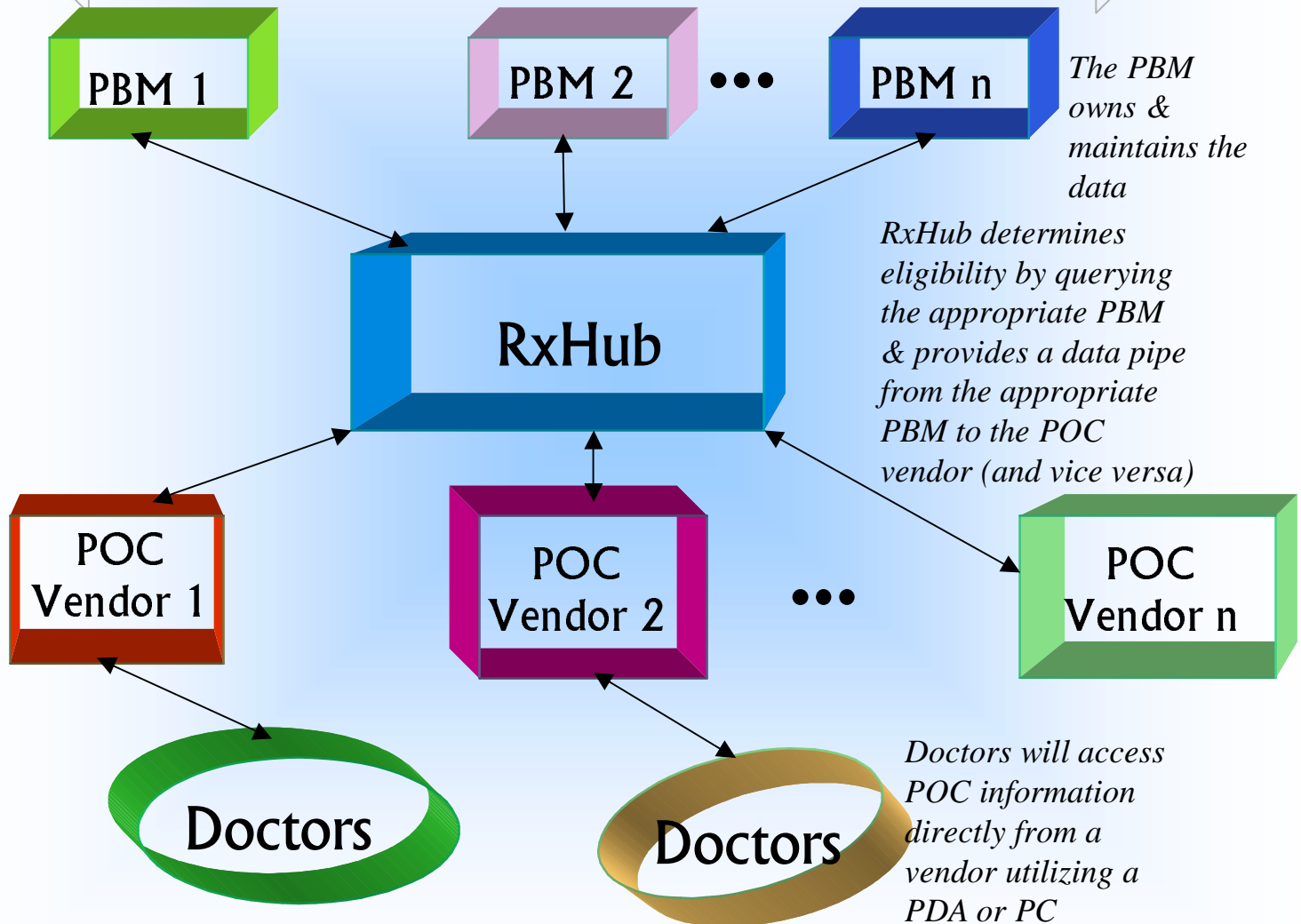
**"More physicians are considering the use of electronic prescribing technology in their practices. Currently, more than 50 such electronic prescription writing platforms exist" --RxHub, 2-22-2001**

## How it will work

- **RxHub provides eligibility information by identifying the patient's PBM (or by identifying the patient as "unfunded" if they do not have coverage or belong to a non-participating PBM)**
  - without RxHub, patient eligibility data must be determined by each POC vendor
- **RxHub provides a centralized platform that enables POC vendors to offer doctors the ability to write electronic prescriptions, while receiving relevant messaging from PBMs at the point of care**
  - RxHub provides the common functionality needed by all PBMs & POC vendors
  - data from each PBM is separately maintained by the PBM & will not be shared
- **Each PBM retains its right to deliver its proprietary content and messages including:**
  - drug formulary & coverage information
  - coverage review programs
  - pharmacy networks and Rx routing
  - Drug Use Review (DUR)
  - physician messaging



# The POC Model Using RxHub





# Leveraging Existing Standards

- Personal Identification/PBM Locator Service (I.e. PIDS)
  - Develop and implement personal identification technology that would enable POC applications to specifically identify individuals included in participating PBM and health plan databases and to select and communicate with the appropriate PBM (with specific clinical and coverage information concerning the specific patient) during the prescribing process
- Health Care Eligibility/Benefit Inquiry and Information Response (ASC X12N 270/271)
  - Developed by ASC X12N committee
  - Adopted in HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) final ruling for eligibility verification for all healthcare sectors except pharmacy
- Electronic Prescription (NCPDP SCRIPT)
- Prescription Claim (NCPDP Telecommunication Standard)
  - Current industry version 3.2
  - HIPAA mandates version 5.1



## Current Standards Gaps

- **Prescription Drug Benefit Check (proposed standard in NCPDP)**
- **Variations in types of connectivity (Internet, Dial-up, wireless, etc.)**
- **No standard in use for implementation (ie. COM, CORBA, XML, HTML, etc.)**
- **No agreed upon security solution**
  - Encryption of data
  - Authentication



## Standardized Processes

- There is a developing crisis caused by the current shortage of pharmacists, coupled with an increasingly aging population putting a higher demand on pharmaceutical therapies.
- New drugs are being released faster than any time in history. Many times drug names are often confused with others, particularly when handwritten.
- What the pharmaceutical dispensing industry needs is a standardized process for physicians to interface with pharmacies and health plans in an automated fashion.
- Better automation and efficiencies will lead to increased capacity and improved service levels.





## In Summary

- Many proprietary approaches have led to slow adoption of electronic prescribing.
- Some standards exist, but there are needs for additional standards.
- There is a lack of a common implementation process. (There is more to the solution than standardized transaction formats.)
- There must be an “open” approach that will allow others to function like RxHub.



## Contact Info

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