



Thanks to NCPDP Foundation Donors...

We've Proven the Underused CancelRx Transaction Can Protect Patients from Receiving Millions of Unintended Prescriptions

A research study, funded by the NCPDP Foundation and conducted by Johns Hopkins Medicine, has shown that use of NCPDP's CancelRx transaction may prevent millions of prescriptions from getting into the hands of patients after their doctors' decisions to cancel those prescriptions.

CancelRx is an electronic transaction that enables prescribers to easily and quickly send an electronic message to the pharmacy to cancel a prescription that is no longer useful to a patient and may even be harmful. The Johns Hopkins Medicine study sought to evaluate the impact of CancelRx implementation on prescriptions dispensed to patients after their physicians intended to discontinue them.

Johns Hopkins researchers found that prior to implementing CancelRx, 3.8% of prescriptions cancelled by prescribers still got into the hands of patients. The cancellation was not effectively communicated to, or received by, the pharmacy.

Absent the use of CancelRx, this equates to more than 10 million prescriptions annually being dispensed to patients when their physicians intended them to be cancelled.*

The Johns Hopkins research dovetails with a University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy study, which showed that after CancelRx was implemented, nearly 100% of physicians used it to cancel prescriptions they intended to discontinue. Through CancelRx, the physician's cancellation is communicated to the pharmacy.

Another important finding for adoption of CancelRx

The Johns Hopkins Medicine finding, in combination with the University of Wisconsin findings, are important in light of the slow industry adoption of the CancelRx transaction. The transaction is included in NCPDP's SCRIPT ePrescribing Standard. While SCRIPT is the industry standard for ePrescribing, its CancelRx transaction is not currently widely used.

Widespread adoption of CancelRx will protect patients from potential adverse events caused by taking medications that their physicians do not want them to take.

This Johns Hopkins Medicine study is one of multiple examples of research funded by the NCPDP Foundation. The Foundation's research priorities align with patient safety issues and healthcare challenges that can be overcome with the proper use of new or underused NCPDP standards.

Read the Johns Hopkins Medicine [Final Report on CancelRx Research](#).

*Estimate based on current transaction volume by prescribers who have adopted CancelRx.