

657—21.9(124,155A) Exemption from electronic prescription mandate—petition. A prescriber, medical group, institution, or pharmacy that is unable to comply with the electronic prescription mandate in rule 657—21.8(124,155A) prior to January 1, 2020, may petition the board, on forms provided by the board, for an exemption from the requirements based upon economic hardship; technical limitations that the prescriber, medical group, institution, or pharmacy cannot control; or other exceptional circumstances. A prescriber, medical group, institution, or pharmacy seeking an exemption beginning January 1, 2020, shall submit a completed petition no later than October 1, 2019. A timely petition for renewal of a previously approved exemption shall be submitted at least 60 days in advance of the expiration of the previously approved exemption.

21.9(1) *Petition information.* A petition for exemption from the electronic prescription mandate shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

a. The name and address of the prescriber, medical group, institution, or pharmacy seeking the exemption. For medical groups and institutions, a list of the names, professional license numbers, and CSA registration numbers of all prescribers who would be covered by the exemption.

b. Whether the petitioner is seeking an exemption for controlled substance prescriptions, non-controlled substance prescriptions, or both.

c. The petitioner's current electronic prescribing capabilities.

d. The reason, such as economic hardship, technological limitations, or other exceptional circumstances, the petitioner is seeking exemption.

e. Supporting documentation to justify the reason for the exemption, including the following mandatory documentation:

(1) For economic hardship petitions, a copy of the petitioner's most recent tax return showing annual income and at least two quotes documenting the cost of implementing electronic prescribing.

(2) For technological limitation petitions, documentation showing the available Internet service providers, the speed and bandwidth available from each provider, and any data caps imposed by the Internet service provider, and documentation showing the minimum technological requirements from at least two electronic prescribing platform vendors.

f. Anticipated date of compliance with the electronic prescription mandate.

g. If the petition seeks renewal of a previously approved exemption, information relating to the petitioner's actions during the previous exemption period to work toward compliance with the electronic prescription mandate or an explanation as to why no progress has been made.

21.9(2) *Criteria for board consideration of a petition.* The board shall consider all information provided in a petition seeking exemption to the electronic prescription mandate and shall approve or deny a petition for exemption based on the following criteria:

a. If the reason for exemption is economic hardship, whether the cost of compliance with the electronic prescription mandate would exceed 5 percent of the petitioner's annual income as reported on the petitioner's most recent tax return.

b. If the reason for exemption is technological limitations, whether the Internet service providers available have the technological capabilities required by the electronic prescribing platform.

c. If the reason for exemption is other exceptional circumstances, examples of exceptional circumstances include, but are not limited to, whether the petitioner is a free or low-income clinic, whether the petitioner had a bankruptcy in the previous year, whether the petitioner intends to discontinue practice in Iowa prior to December 31, 2020, and whether the petitioner has a disability that limits the ability to utilize an electronic prescribing platform. All other exceptional circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

d. If the petition seeks renewal of a previous exemption to the electronic prescription mandate, the number of exemptions previously granted and updated information as it relates to the petitioner working toward compliance with the electronic prescription mandate or the explanation as to why no progress has been made.

21.9(3) *Duration of approved exemption.* The board may approve an exemption, or the renewal of an exemption, to the electronic prescription mandate for a specified period of time not to exceed one year from the date of approval.

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