SUMMARY POINTS

What is known about the topic:

- Time in motion studies have demonstrated that e-prescribing takes as long or longer to write than handwritten prescriptions.

- Such studies have called into question the efficiency of e-prescribing in ambulatory settings.

- The business case for e-prescribing in ambulatory care settings is not well described.

- Perceptions of efficiencies of e-prescribing by clinicians and their staff in ambulatory settings is needed

What this study added:

- Physicians and their staff practicing in ambulatory settings believe that e-prescribing has made the prescribing process more efficient because of decreases in time spent dealing with errors, prior authorizations, and better understanding of formularies

- Clinicians report more efficient work flow, decreased errors, and improved communication with pharmacy owing to e-prescribing.

- Clinicians reported hiring staff with different skill sets to support e-prescribing.

- Inefficiencies have been introduced due to the inability to prescribe controlled substances electronically, repeated warnings by software being incorrect or distracting, incorrect or not up to date insurance formularies, slow software response times during busy times, and increased patient calls because pharmacists have not received prescriptions either because of mishaps or patient did not tell physician of pharmacy change