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The Netherlands - Compulsory E Prescribing by 2012

Inspector General of the Dutch Healthcare Inspectorate, Prof. Gerrit van der Wal, has announced that from 1 January 2012 all drug prescribers must have made the switch to an electronic prescription system.

Prof. dr. van der Wal declared, "It is very risky to prescribe drugs without the help of an automated system that instantly signals drug interactions and possible allergic reactions. This is unnecessarily dangerous and no longer justified. Therefore, inspections will start from 1 January 2012."

There are currently too many errors being made in the dispensing of medication. It is believed that these errors could be significantly reduced with the use of an eprescribing system. As of January 2011, a guideline on the transfer of medication data formulated by the healthcare sector will be enforced.

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