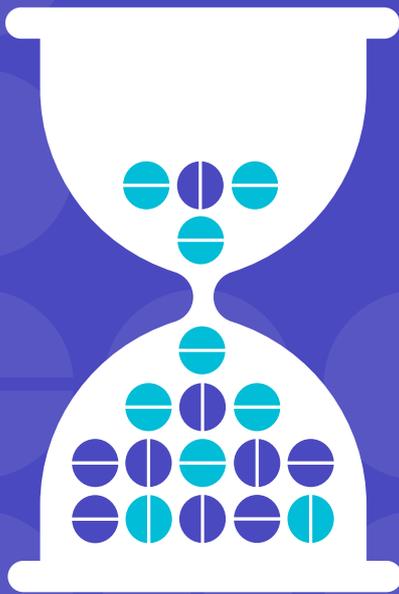


# DSCSA is Delayed. Now What?

5 Ways Pharmacies Can Act Now to Achieve DSCSA Compliance



# Navigating the complexities of confirming the legality of drug products and uncovering their prior transaction history to stay DSCSA compliant demands adept management of extensive and accurate data.

**The recent DSCSA enforcement delay to November 27, 2024, might seem like a breather for many pharmacies. However, the strategic move for pharmacies lies not in complacency, but in proactive preparation. Despite the delay, the challenges associated with the DSCSA, such as managing large amounts of data and addressing drug shortages, remain persistent and, if neglected, will amplify. This white paper aims to delve into the challenges pharmacies will encounter, the critical need to act now and sustain compliance efforts and pragmatic strategies to propel pharmacies forward despite the regulatory delays. The DSCSA is not merely a compliance checkbox. It's a transformative initiative that demands a seamless integration of technology, processes and staff training.**

## DSCSA Challenges Will Escalate Despite Enforcement Delay

### Managing Large Amounts of Data

The sheer volume of data involved in compliance with DSCSA is substantial. Pharmacies, especially those managing multiple locations and large inventories, must grapple with the organization, integration and secure storage of vast amounts of information. Acting now to implement robust pharmacy purchasing and inventory management software is paramount. Failure to do so could result in a data management crisis, hindering the seamless traceability demanded by the DSCSA.

To stay DSCSA compliant demands adept management of extensive and accurate data. Pharmacies, especially those operating across multiple locations, handle the task of employing diverse tools and resources to capture, verify and store substantial amounts of data.

Calvin Hunsicker, Founder and Chief Product Officer at SureCost, highlights, "If you have multiple pharmacies, you need to have a system that helps you scale across your locations consistently and not add additional services or even steps in your workflow process. You want to make sure that it's seamless and works."

Despite no explicit regulatory mandate to track transfers between pharmacy locations under the same ownership, it still necessitates careful attention. The challenge lies in implementing robust processes to ensure compliance while navigating the nuances of adults and maintaining a proactive stance.

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### Avoiding Drug Shortages

Drug Shortages, an ongoing concern for pharmacies, are exacerbated by the delay. As the industry adapts, the stringent tracking and verification requirements can slow down the pharmaceutical supply chain as manufacturers and distributors align with the new requirements. This may impact the availability of certain drugs in the market and cause temporary drug shortages.

It's also a challenge for pharmacies to balance compliance measures with dispensing medications in a timely manner. The verification process can cause delays or disruptions in your pharmacy's workflow. Any products flagged for non-compliance will also impact the availability of medications.

Pharmacies that invest in forecasting tools and establish strategic vendor relationships are better positioned to navigate the challenges of shortages. Delaying action may lead to increased vulnerability to disruptions, affecting patient care and pharmacy operations.

### Maintaining Vendor Relationships

Vendor relationships play a pivotal role in DSCSA Compliance, as vendors are responsible for producing crucial product tracking data. It's a challenge to ensure vendors are sending correct and timely information. The complexities of aggregating data from various sources and vendors further compound the task, necessitating a strategic approach to vendor relationship management for streamlined compliance. Establishing connections with vendors takes time, and pharmacies that act now will build stronger, more collaborative partnerships. Failure to do so may result in strained relationships, jeopardizing the timely flow of crucial pharmaceuticals.

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## **Why Pharmacies Must Act Now to Achieve DSCSA Compliance**

While delays in DSCSA enforcement might offer a temporary pause, it's imperative for pharmacies to recognize the long-term repercussions of complacency. It's important to maintain momentum in compliance efforts in order to prevent last-minute scrambling and potential disruption of normal pharmacy operations, lessen your vulnerability to potential penalties and fees during audits and continue to ensure patient safety and trust.

As Chase Ferguson, Product Manager at SureCost, notes, "The first thing that an auditor is going to do when they come in is ask to see what your standard operating procedures are in different areas of your pharmacy. You want to make sure that what you're putting in writing is what you're comfortably and consistently executing in the pharmacy. With this delay, it's the perfect time to review those existing procedures or create new ones."

Here are a few actions to stay ahead:



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## **Seize the Moment: Implement Five Smarter Purchasing Strategies Now Despite the Delay**

While the DSCSA enforcement has been delayed, the imperative for pharmacies to act now remains. Implementing five key smarter purchasing strategies is paramount to navigate the challenges presented by DSCSA delays. Acting now ensures consistency, accountability and convenience throughout their purchasing and inventory management processes.

**01**



### **Data Consolidation**

Embracing a single source of truth, the data consolidation strategy simplifies tracking and management by centralizing purchasing, inventory and DSCSA-relevant information. With **SureCost's DSCSA Compliance Packages**, the platform offers a comprehensive view of pricing from vendors, including GPO/buying group pricing and rebates. The SureCost solution ensures up-to-date information, facilitates seamless submission and tracking of purchasing orders and provides a six-year electronic storage of DSCSA-compliant transactions and receiving data.

**02**



### **Integrated Technologies**

Integrated technology ensures ease of integration with current systems, minimizing disruptions and promoting accuracy across the supply chain. SureCost's mobile app facilitates efficient scanning to receive items while capturing DSCSA data. Integration with pharmacy management systems guarantees precise cost data, while accounts payable integration streamlines invoicing processes. SureCost is designed to accommodate DSCSA file requirements, such as EPCIS, alongside vendor integrations.

Hunsicker notes, that "There's not necessarily one solution that does all. You still need a pharmacy management solution. You also might have accounts payable or other solutions that may not handle DSCSA or not be able to work with your pharmacy management system directly. Having a DSCSA solution that automatically integrates with those systems is really critical to the success of your pharmacy."

**03**



### **Enhance Vendor Relationships**

Fostering strong relationships with vendors is a cornerstone of DSCSA compliance. SureCost encourages vendor accountability by automatically flagging items during inventory scanning if product identifier information doesn't match the vendor's data. SureCost serves as a unified source for reports and requests/audits from manufacturers, FDA and other authorities. Invoice reconciliation ensures vendors provide the correct products at the right prices.

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**04**



### **Optimize Inventory Shelf Life**

Optimizing inventory shelf life is paramount to reducing waste and ensuring accountability. By tracking inventory from receipt to dispensing, SureCost enables pharmacies to maintain ideal stock levels and implement automatic, data-driven replenishment orders. This strategy promotes adherence to DSCSA requirements by reducing the risk of errors related to product expiration.

**05**



### **Optimize Purchasing**

Purchasing automation ensures pharmacies meet DSCSA requirements. SureCost facilitates the utilization of equivalent products to address drug shortages, promotes transparent pricing for budget management and provides the convenience of a mobile app for streamlined receiving. The automated purchasing solution, integrated with a unified platform, empowers pharmacies to track and monitor inventory levels and prevent overstocking or understocking.

While the DSCSA delay offers a reprieve, the key for pharmacies lies in leveraging this time effectively. By understanding the challenges, recognizing the sustained efforts required and implementing smarter purchasing strategies, pharmacies can not only achieve consistent DSCSA compliance, but also fortify their position in an ever-evolving pharmaceutical landscape. Acting now, rather than later, ensures a smoother, more efficient transition, transforming regulatory challenges into opportunities for growth and excellence in patient care.

**Stay ahead of the game and book a DSCSA demo now.**

**[Book a DSCSA Consultation](#)**

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– Calvin Hunsicker, SureCost Founder and Chief Product Officer

**[Book a Demo](#)**

**Let's talk.**

**Book a 30-minute introductory meeting today.**



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