



# 5 Ways Smarter Purchasing Drives DSCSA Compliance

**HOW TO STAY DSCSA COMPLIANT BY IMPROVING YOUR PURCHASING PROCESS**



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SureCost is aware of the complex regulations that pharmacies must follow, such as the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA). To enhance the security, traceability and accountability of the drug supply chain, the DSCSA was passed into law. The law mandates the use of a standardized system for tracking prescription pharmaceuticals from the producer to the dispenser throughout the entire US supply chain. Additionally, it mandates the adoption of electronic systems for interoperable transaction tracking and tracing at the unit level of most prescription medications requiring that each package level unit have unique serialized identification.

The impact of the DSCSA on pharmacies can't be overstated. Pharmacies must abide by the rules and keep a safe, electronic system in place for tracking medications. Pharmacies are required by law to confirm the legality of the medications they acquire and to only buy medicines from legally licensed trading partners (wholesalers, distributors, manufacturers). Penalties and fines apply if DSCSA compliance isn't maintained as judged by a federal or state auditor.



This white paper explains how SureCost assists pharmacies in adhering to DSCSA guidelines with an electronic system for tracking, tracing and confirming the legality of pharmaceuticals and uphold legal compliance. In order to understand how SureCost ensures DSCSA compliance while enhancing productivity and profitability, it's necessary to tackle the challenges presented by DSCSA.

### Navigating the Complexities of DSCSA Compliance

#### Managing Data and Accuracy

Pharmacies face several challenges as a result of DSCSA regulations, including the need for data consolidation and accurate reporting. With the requirement to trace prescription drugs throughout the supply chain, pharmacies are responsible for maintaining six years of accurate records and reporting information related to any suspect product received within 48 business hours. However, this is a daunting task for pharmacies that rely on multiple systems and sources for inventory management, purchasing and reporting. Even if failing to meet these requirements doesn't lead to patient safety issues, it can still lead to fines and reputational damage. This challenge is especially difficult for pharmacies that operate across multiple locations or have a high volume of transactions.

#### Avoiding Shortages

Another challenge pharmacies face is getting the right products on time while ensuring efficient purchasing processes. With the DSCSA requirement for pharmacies to only purchase drugs from authorized trading partners, it's challenging to ensure that the right products are available when needed. Pharmacies must consider factors such as product availability, price and shipping times when making purchasing decisions. These challenges and their associated risks are often exacerbated by the fact that pharmacies often have limited resources to devote to purchasing and inventory management. Failing to optimize purchasing leads to supply chain disruptions and lost revenue.

#### Maintaining Vendor Relationships

To fulfill these demands, effective vendor relationship management is essential. Pharmacies are required to keep accurate records of all transactions and be able to confirm the compliance of all their trading partners. In order to guarantee that the appropriate items are accessible when needed and to address any difficulties that emerge, pharmacies must be able to interact efficiently with their vendors. In order to recognize any problems or potential areas for improvement, pharmacies must also be able to assess and analyze vendor performance. When working with several vendors and manufacturers, this is especially difficult because it calls for the aggregation of data from various sources.

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## Mitigate DSCSA Challenges with Smarter Purchasing

To overcome DSCSA problems, consistency, accountability and convenience are crucial because they assist to maintain compliance, improve patient safety and foster operational effectiveness. It's simpler to track and manage items as they travel through the supply chain when all systems and procedures are consistent in capturing and recording the same data types, events and formats. Accountability minimizes the risk of non-compliance and the related fines by ensuring that everyone participating in the supply chain is accountable for maintaining compliance. Convenience speeds up procedures and lowers the possibility of mistakes, making it simpler for pharmacies and their partners to manage inventories and improve buying.



SureCost delivers consistency, accountability and convenience to overcome DSCSA challenges through smarter purchasing. Data consolidation ensures that there is a unified source for DSCSA-relevant information from all vendors, enabling accountability and compliance. Integrated technologies such as EPCIS (Electronic Product Code Information Services) and EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) provide streamlined data sources that are used to produce accurate reports, facilitating efficient and accurate tracking, managing and reconciling of DSCSA-mandated data. Enhanced relationships with service providers ensure that pharmacies receive transparent drug prices upfront, making purchasing decisions more informed and cost-effective. Optimization of inventory's shelf life reduces waste and ensures that products with the earliest expiration date are used first, promoting accountability and reducing the risk of errors. Optimized purchasing utilizing therapeutic equivalents ensures that pharmacies get the right products on time, reducing the risk of drug shortages and promoting convenience.

### Data Consolidation

**Consistency** of data is crucial in overcoming DSCSA challenges as it provides a single source of truth for DSCSA relevant information. Having SureCost enables smarter purchasing by capturing relevant data and measuring purchasing data across both compliant and non-compliant purchasing paradigms. By consolidating data from various sources, including Group Purchasing Organizations (GPOs), Buying Groups, and vendors, SureCost provides pharmacies with a comprehensive view of their purchasing and inventory data. This helps pharmacies make better purchasing decisions and identify opportunities to reduce costs and labor while maintaining their compliance. With the mobile app, users scan the 2D barcode, capture the traceable item data and are alerted when discrepancies don't match the received (or missing) vendor DSCSA-mandated data. Furthermore, SureCost ensures the pricing that was invoiced matches the price of the associated agreement. This reduces the risk of human error and eliminates the need for manual downloads and streamlines the reconciliation process.

**“SureCost has definitely saved us time and money when ordering our medications. SureCost saves the hassle of looking up items from multiple vendor websites to find the best price. SureCost allows you to price check multiple vendors at one time and get the best price at that time.”** - Jason Degenhart PharmD, Assistant Director of Operations, Green Tree Pharmacy

**Your company brings a lot of value to your customers by providing training and the knowledge to help them manage their vendor contracts and purchasing accurately and efficiently. No one else in the industry provides that type of service.”**

- Doug Smock, CEO & President, Infinity Pharmacy Solutions, LLC

### **Integrated Technologies**

Using a single platform helps ensure DSCSA compliance, enhances patient safety and promotes operational efficiency. SureCost’s integrated platform streamlines the process of tracking and managing pharmaceutical inventory and transactions, enabling pharmacies to maintain compliance with DSCSA requirements more easily and consistently. By consolidating data from multiple sources, pharmacists have a comprehensive and accurate view of inventory, providing the ability to track products at every step of the supply chain. This includes tracking and tracing products through their entire lifecycle, from manufacturing to dispensing. Additionally, pharmacies have access to accurate data and reports, making it easier to track products. This level of visibility and control reduces the risk of errors and increases efficiency in managing inventory. Ultimately, a unified platform helps pharmacies stay compliant with DSCSA regulations and improve overall operational efficiency.

### **Enhance Relationships with Service Providers**

SureCost’s Primary Vendor Assurance ensures that pharmacies maintain vendor accountability to provide accurate and timely data, reducing the risk of non-compliance and fines. With SureCost, pharmacies are rest assured that they’re maintaining compliance with DSCSA requirements, while also streamlining their purchasing workflows and improving profitability. SureCost provides enhanced visibility of metrics, enabling pharmacies to track compliance with DSCSA regulations and monitor vendor performance. This enables pharmacies to build stronger relationships with service providers and ensure that they’re meeting the requirements of DSCSA.

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### **Optimize Your Inventory’s Shelf Life**

By giving pharmacies access into inventory levels and expiry dates, SureCost’s Inventory Management solution is a convenient way to optimize inventory management and ensure shelf life compliance while overcoming DSCSA challenges. By tracking inventory from the time it is received until it is dispensed, the technology enables pharmacies to maintain ideal stock levels and minimize waste. The mobile app enables users to easily scan product barcodes and receive inventory information. Pharmacies prevent out-of-stocks and overstocks by having accurate data at their fingertips. They also make smart purchases depending on inventory levels and expiration dates. By giving precise and current information on lot numbers and expiration dates, the solution also assists pharmacies in ensuring compliance with DSCSA standards and reducing the risk of adding suspect, counterfeit or expired medications to their inventory that could be one step away from dispensing to their patients.

**“I have worked with SureCost for several years now. The team at SureCost is professional and brings significant value in regards to Inventory management best practices. The SureCost software has increased our efficiencies in purchasing, which directly hits the bottom line. The data available through SureCost and our analysis of this information gives us the ability to make smart decisions regarding inventory control. I would highly recommend SureCost.”** - Steve Boulanger, R.Ph. & President, Mercury Pharmacy Services



**SureCost's transparent pricing system also empowers users with the ability to view prices upfront, which helps pharmacies manage their budgets better and prevent unexpected charges.**

### **Optimized Purchasing**

Automated purchasing capabilities play a critical role in helping pharmacies overcome DSCSA challenges by enabling efficient purchasing and management of inventory. The platform utilizes therapeutic equivalents, which helps pharmacies find substitutes for drugs that are in short supply, thereby reducing the risk of non-compliance. SureCost's transparent pricing system also empowers users with the ability to view prices upfront, which helps pharmacies manage their budgets better and prevent unexpected charges. Additionally, the mobile app's convenience and functionality enables users to purchase products quickly, easily and from anywhere, streamlining the purchasing process. With an automated procurement system and a unified platform, pharmacies easily track inventory levels, monitor expiration dates and prevent overstocking or understocking.

**“As an experienced executive in Long Term Care Pharmacy with over 30 years’ experience, I very early realized purchasing the right drug at the right price is priority number one in operating a successful pharmacy. SureCost is the solution to and direction needed to develop and manage a comprehensive, detailed, sound and accurate purchasing program. The software itself has been well thought out by purchasing and pharmacy professionals. The software is mature and has been enhanced by working with and through the SureCost users. I highly recommend using SureCost to enhance your operations and increase the profitability of your pharmacy.”** - Denis Holmes, Managing Partner & Craig Baughman - President Accuscript Pharmacy

With SureCost's Smarter Purchasing solution, pharmacies achieve DSCSA compliance while enhancing patient safety and promoting operational efficiency. **Book a demo today to see how SureCost helps pharmacies with smarter purchasing while staying DSCSA compliant!**



### **Save More**

Find the right product at the best price from your entire vendor and wholesaler catalog while reducing out-of-stock items.



### **Work Smarter**

Automate selected decisions and streamline workflows to save time, drive productivity and avoid staff burnout.



### **Stay Compliant**

Confirm delivery of items at the prices you expected and reduce rogue spending through a single solution.

### **Next Steps**

Want to learn more about what smarter purchasing can do for your pharmacy?

Let's discuss how your pharmacy can harness smarter purchasing without disrupting your existing process.

**Book a Demo**

### **Let's talk.**

**Book a 30-minute meeting with us and let's discuss how SureCost will help you save more, stay compliant and work smarter.**

