5 Must-haves when looking for the right EPCS Solution

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Compliance with Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances (EPCS) regulations can *seem* straightforward. The technology that supports compliance, however—that's surprisingly complex.

Not all EPCS solutions are created equal.

How can you more quickly and confidently meet Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) EPCS requirements?

First, your EPCS solution has to be user-friendly. If the user experience is fragmented, cumbersome or confusing, that frustrates healthcare providers and takes time away from what's really important: patient care. Design matters.
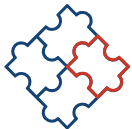
Integration matters as well. Does the vendor's EPCS solution integrate fully and easily with your platform? Often, these solutions do not. And a lack of flexibility on the vendor's end means time-consuming labor for your product development team. It also means you'll have to build your platform around the vendor's solution—and lose the freedom of designing the solution the way you want for seamless, consistent user experience.

Then there's deployment and maintenance. It's exciting and relatively easy to deploy new product functionality. Maintaining and supporting it is where most vendors fall flat. Does your EPCS vendor give you tools and resources for managing additional features? If the answer's no, then this overhead falls on you.

Finally, there's the worst-case scenario of your vendor discontinuing its EPCS product—or even going out of business entirely. Vetting and procurement are time-consuming and complicated. Are you ready to start this process again from square one?

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EPCS is moving quickly towards nationwide enforcement. Currently:

28 states have an **EPCS mandate**

6 states have **confirmed dates when mandates will be effective**

2 states have **proposed legislation**

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5 must-haves for seamless, sustainable EPCS

Is your electronic health records (EHR) product due for DEA recertification? Is your customer base expanding into new jurisdictions?

It's time for an EPCS solution. For one that can keep up, worry-free, look for these 5 things:

1. An intuitive end-user experience
2. Seamless back-end integration
3. Quality and reliability
4. Long-term stability
5. EPCS knowledge and expertise

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I Is the end-user experience intuitive?

Providers are busy. As they focus on their patients, they don't have time for fragmented workflows just to send a prescription.

Help them increase productivity and patient engagement by delivering them an intuitive and straightforward prescribing experience that meets state and federal mandates.

Look for an EPCS solution that offers:

- A fully-integrated experience
- Multiple proofing and token options for providers
- Easy-to-access, easy-to-use self-service tools, so your providers can manage their own tokens

Exostar knows health care.

We use our knowledge to build a system that is modular and supports your native prescribing experience.

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2 Is integration seamless?

On the backend, you need an EPCS solution that your IT team can easily integrate into your existing platform—no overhauls required. This solution should work natively within your platform without the need for custom coding, so you don't waste your resources or time reinventing the wheel.

Look for an EPCS solution with:

- All-in-one identity proofing, two-factor authentication, and digital signatures to limit integration points
- Seamless integration into your existing UX/UI to maintain a consistent clinical experience
- Features integrated in a modular way, with minimal changes to your platform

Exostar knows integration.

Our teams bring industry, regulatory, and IT experts together to deliver you an end-to-end solution.

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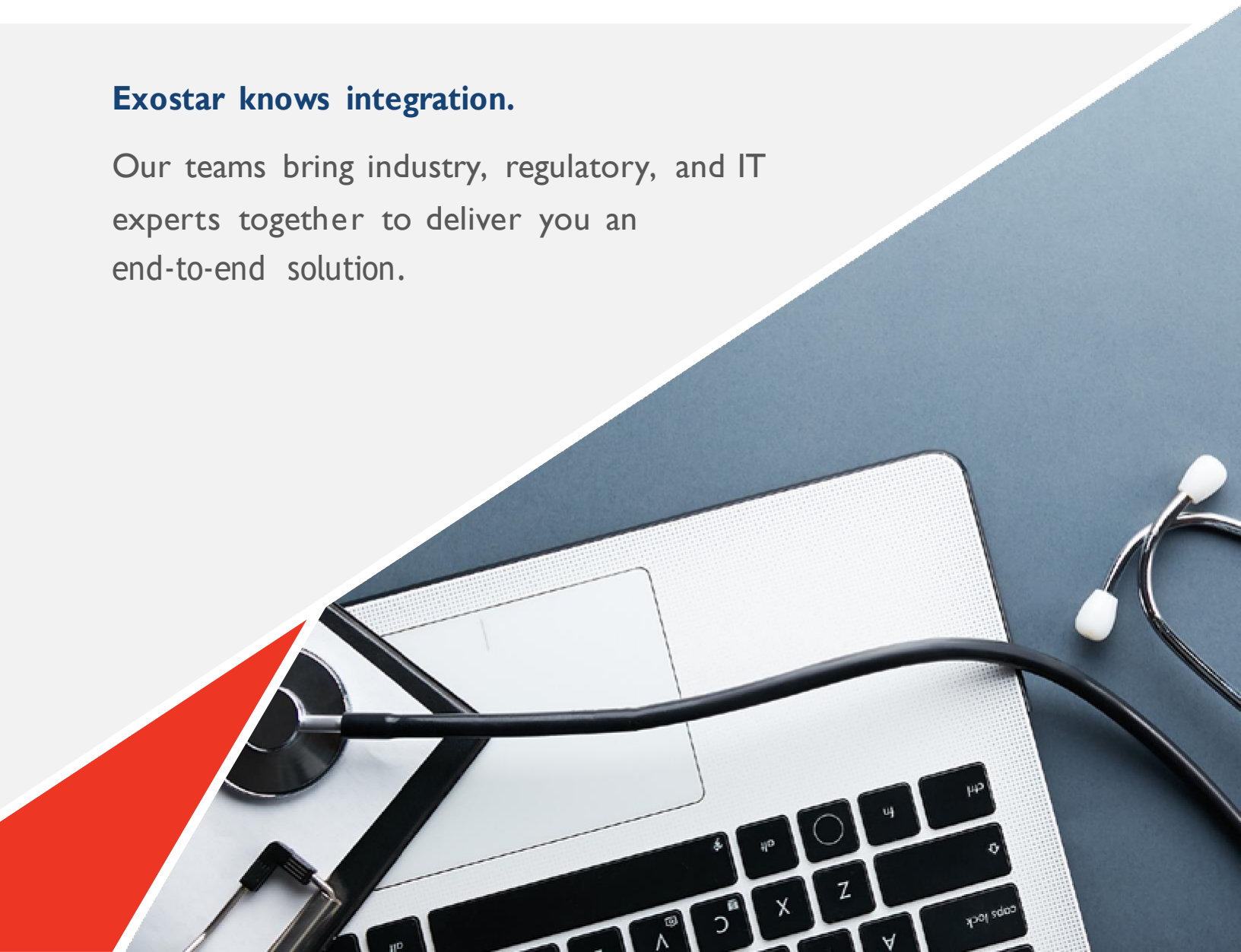
3   Is the solution designed with quality and reliability in mind?

Providers want a proven EPCS solution that can stand up to their prescribing needs. When reliability issues arise, they waste precious time with unnecessary medication administration reconciliation. As a result, their patients experience backed-up waiting rooms, rushed provider encounters, and lengthy waits at the pharmacy.

Make their lives—and yours—easier. Seek a vendor and solution with:

• The ability to handle a high volume of prescriptions
• Robust, highly-available infrastructure
• US-based support for your prescribers

Exostar has a proven track record.

Whatever your specialty or focus—pain management, urgent care, psychiatry, family practice, and beyond—Exostar's load-balanced infrastructure is designed to meet your prescribing demands.

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4   Can you count on the vendor and solution?

EPCS may seem like a small component of your e-prescribing. Yet it's heavily integrated into your patient engagement workflow and plays a vital role in delivering patient medication.

Selecting the wrong EPCS vendor can disrupt both your operations and your providers' prescribing workflows, potentially leading to regulatory implications and reputational damage.

For greater peace of mind, choose an EPCS vendor that has withstood the test of time, possesses a track record of success, and continues to grow.

Research the vendor's:

- EPCS expertise
- Dedicated healthcare industry focus
- Technology expertise

Exostar is here to stay.

We've been EPCS experts since the regulations were first developed—and we're committed for the long haul to both the healthcare market and to EPCS innovation, infrastructure, and customer support.

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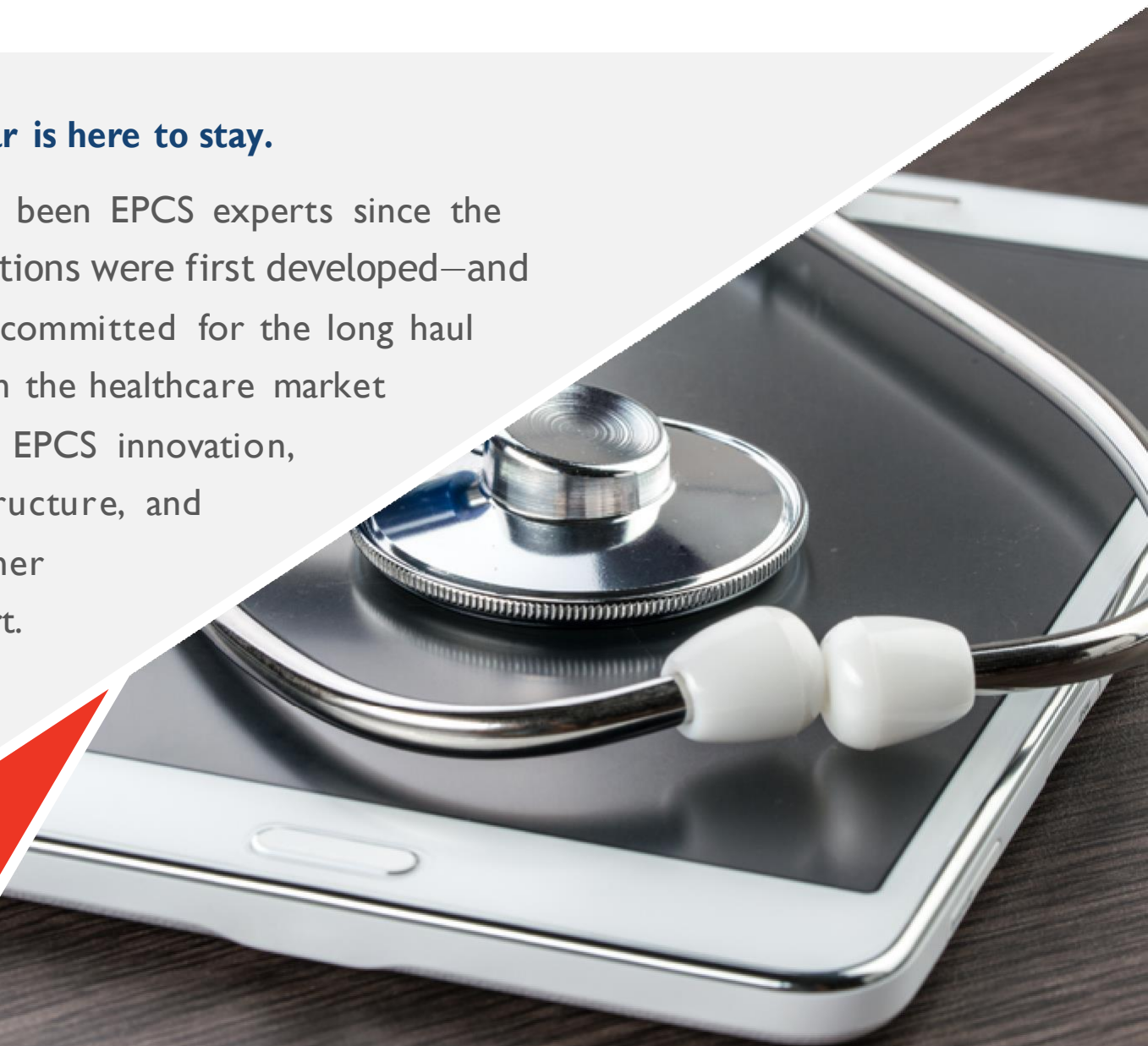
5 Does the vendor know EPCS?

EPCS is a short acronym with a long, complex history, starting with an "interim final ruling" that originated 11 years ago.

Here's why this matters:
All EPCS implementations must be reviewed and approved by a third-party DEA auditor to ensure they meet DEA regulations. What happens if your EPCS vendor isn't familiar with all of the ruling's nuances?

Furthermore, working with an inexperienced EPCS vendor as you get EPCS enabled can result in regulatory implications, increased project time, and costs. Is your vendor prepared to help you successfully pass your audit the first time?

Deliver your customers confident compliance—swiftly and easily—with:

• A solution designed specifically for EPCS requirements

• A vendor whose subject matter experts know the regulatory landscape

• A technical team who can translate EPCS requirements into an intuitive,
  easy-to implement and easy-to-use application

Exostar knows EPCS regulations.

We have a team of dedicated EPCS specialists led by Life Sciences and Health IT Director Kenny Kong. Kong was part of the DEA pilot and helped launch EPCS nationwide. He is considered a preeminent expert in this highly specialized area.

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ProviderPass by Exostar: Credentialing with confidence

With the right solution that accounts for all five of these must-haves, you can painlessly extend your systems with the compliant, easy-to-use EPCS capabilities that today's healthcare providers demand.

Exostar's ProviderPass delivers, with:

- Functionality drawn from 11+ years specializing in EPCS
- Performance you can depend on—evidenced by the swift, seamless processing of one million e-signatures each month
- Expert, dedicated teams for product development and customer support

Questions about EPCS or the DEA regulations? Contact our **Exostar EPCS experts**.