



ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance

Alabama Administrative Code Rule Changes

The Alabama State Board of Pharmacy has adopted or amended the following new rules:

680-X-2-.14 The Role of Technicians in Pharmacies

Section (3) of this rule was amended to include the sufficient ratio(s) of technicians on duty in the prescription area of a retail or institutional pharmacy for each full-time licensed pharmacist on duty, and reads as follows:

- (a) Four (4) technicians, two of which shall be certified by any credentialing organization approved by the Board; or,
- (b) Three (3) technicians, one of which shall be certified by any credentialing organization approved by the Board; or,
- (c) Two (2) technicians, neither of which is required to be certified by any credentialing organization approved by the Board
- (d) Nothing in this rule shall prevent a pharmacy from employing technicians to perform supervised tasks not requiring professional judgment.

This rule went into effect on November 14, 2022.

680-X-2-.18 Institutional Pharmacies

This rule was amended to address the need to obtain medications upon discharge from an institutional facility. Section (8) Dispensing for Institutional Facilities reads as follows:

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(a) “Emergency dispensing” is defined as prescribing/providing necessary medications to patients being treated by institutional facilities within the physical institutional facility or to be taken with the patient upon discharge.

(b) Requirements for “Emergency Dispensing” labeling must include, but is not limited to:

1. The name and address of the facility from which the prescription was dispensed
2. The directions for use
3. The name of the drug as it is dispensed
4. The strength per dosage unit,
5. Any additional information that is a true statement of fact may be included as deemed essential for proper storage, handling, safety, and/or usage of the prescription.

(c) “Emergency Dispensing” may be utilized for the following medications:

1. Bulk medications for single patient use
2. Medications deemed necessary with Board approval

This rule went into effect on November 14, 2022.

680-X-2-.48 State of Emergency Provisions

This rule was created to provide standards for technicians to enter a pharmacy during a state of emergency only for the purpose of providing properly filled, checked, and approved prescriptions ready for pickup. The rule reads as follows:

(1) Whenever the Governor duly proclaims the existence of a State of Emergency defined in Code of Alabama 1975 31-9-3(5) pursuant to the authority and power given to the Governor by Code of Alabama 1975 31-9-6, a pharmacy technician(s) holding a current and valid Registration, shall be allowed to enter a pharmacy where he/she is employed without the necessity of a pharmacist’s presence for only the purpose of providing properly filled, checked and approved prescriptions ready for pickup by the ultimate user or his/her agent who shall be provided a contact number for a pharmacist for the purpose of counseling.

(2) The ability of a technician(s) to perform the functions described above are authorized only for the duration of the Governor’s proclamation.

(3) The Supervising Pharmacist of any pharmacy allowing a technician(s) to engage in the activities described above shall notify the Board within 48 hours of the initiation of this activity.

This rule went into effect on November 14, 2022.

Guidance on Required Information on CS Prescriptions

By Jessica St John

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has sent out updated guidance related to what information may be added to or changed on controlled substance (CS) prescriptions:

In the past few months, DEA has received an increasing number of questions concerning pharmacists' ability to add or modify information—like a patient's address—on paper prescriptions. To address these questions, DEA has been reviewing the relevant regulations and working to draft new regulations to address this issue. **In the interim, pharmacists should adhere to state regulations or policy regarding those changes that a pharmacist may make to a schedule II prescription after oral consultation with the prescriber.** (emphasis added)

The Board's [policy statement](#) from August 25, 2010, (Policy 20100825) allows for the pharmacist to add or change the patient's address upon verification. In addition, a pharmacist may add or change the dosage form, drug strength, drug quantity, directions for use, or issue date only after consultation with and agreement from the prescribing practitioner. Such consultation and corresponding changes should be noted by the pharmacist on the prescription. The pharmacist is never permitted to make changes to the patient's name, CS prescribed (except for generic substitution permitted by state law), or the prescriber's signature. This document regarding allowable changes to CS is available on the Board's website under [Policy Statements](#).

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