

UTAH BOARD OF PHARMACY

*Newsletter to Promote Pharmacy
and Drug Law Compliance.*

Updates to Prescription Refills in Utah

By Christopher Sheard, MBA, PharmD, and Lauren Harvey, JD

For many years, Utah pharmacists have practiced under a familiar framework when it comes to prescription refills. That framework traces back to 1985, when the Utah Pharmacy Practice Act first introduced language addressing refills and placed clear authority with the prescriber to determine if and when a medication could be refilled.

In 1996, the statute was simplified to a standard many pharmacists know: refills for non-controlled prescriptions are valid for up to one year from the original issue date. Over time, minor clarifications followed, but the core understanding remained consistent. This principle has been reinforced through education, the Utah-specific Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination®, and daily practice.

This enduring standard has now evolved.

What has changed?

House Bill (HB) 264 passed during the 2026 Utah Legislative Session, updating Utah's approach to prescription refills to better reflect modern patient needs and pharmacy practice. Effective May 6, 2026, prescriptions for non-controlled substances (CS) may now be refilled for up to two years.

This offers greater flexibility for patients, pharmacists, and prescribers alike. Patients may experience fewer interruptions in therapy; prescribers have greater flexibility in designing treatment plans; and pharmacies can support improved medication adherence by reducing unnecessary renewal barriers.

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For example, a patient who is prescribed a medication for intermittent use, such as a seasickness patch, can now use the same prescription across multiple travel seasons without needing to obtain a new prescription each year.

Key Points

- HB 264 took effect on May 6, 2026. Non-CS prescriptions written on or after this date may include refills valid for up to two years from the date of issuance.
 - Prescriptions written prior to May 6, 2026, remain subject to the one-year limit from the date of issuance.
- The initial dispensing must occur within one year of the prescription's issue date.
- Once the original fill has occurred, authorized refills may be dispensed for up to two years from the date of issuance or designated original fill date.
- The number of refills continues to be determined at the prescriber's discretion.
 - Prescribers may issue prescriptions intended to last up to two years, if clinically appropriate.

- Prescribers may also set a shorter expiration time frame if patient monitoring is needed.

Example: A prescriber may issue a 30-day supply with 12 refills for chronic medication and note that refills should expire after 12 months to ensure follow-up evaluation.

- Pharmacists must continue to follow state-issued standing orders and guidance documents that include more restrictive limits.

Example: Self-administered hormonal contraceptive protocols still limit dispensing to no more than 12 months before reevaluation.

- Refill restrictions on CS are not affected by HB 264.
- Pharmacy management systems may need to be updated to support refill authorizations beyond the traditional one-year limit.

This update to the Pharmacy Practice Act provides greater flexibility for prescribers and helps patients maintain consistent access to their medications, while preserving important safeguards to ensure safe and appropriate medication use.

Utah Representation at NABP Conference

By Fiona McNair, University of Utah PharmD Candidate

I was honored to have the opportunity to represent the Utah Board of Pharmacy at the 122nd National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) Annual Meeting held in Boston, MA, in May 2026. The conference brought together pharmacy regulators, pharmacists, educators, and health care leaders from across the country to discuss current issues impacting pharmacy practice and patient safety.

At the Educational Poster Session, attendees were able to engage with students about their research in developing topics surrounding public health

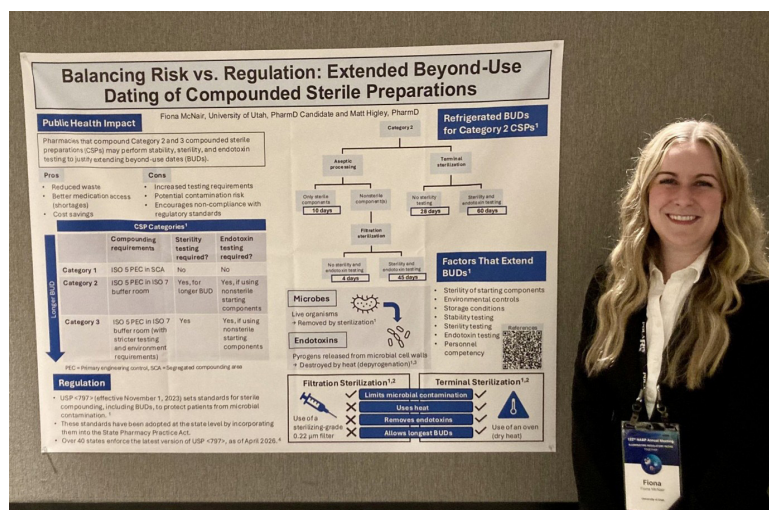
protection. My poster presentation was titled "Balancing Risk vs. Regulation: Extended Beyond-Use Dating of Compounded Sterile Preparations." The presentation highlighted the role of United States Pharmacopeia (USP) <797> in setting compounding standards for state boards of pharmacy to implement, the differences in compounded sterile preparation (CSP) categories and sterilization methods, and the use of testing to ensure that CSPs are stable and uncontaminated when they are dispensed to patients.

Utah Representation at NABP Conference

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503A compounding pharmacies commonly use filtration to sterilize CSPs, due to its ease of use and compatibility with most medications, unlike terminal sterilization. However, terminal sterilization is considered a more reliable method of sterilization due to its use of heat, therefore allowing longer beyond-use dates (BUDs). Pharmacies may argue that they should be able to extend the BUDs of CSPs sterilized via filtration to match those of terminally sterilized CSPs, provided that appropriate testing requirements are met. I discussed how extending BUDs may reduce waste, which is beneficial for cost savings and medication shortages, but how it increases the potential for microbial contamination and encourages noncompliance with regulation.

It was rewarding to exchange ideas with pharmacy professionals from other areas of the country. I enjoyed discussions about the variability of how states currently enforce USP <797>, the involvement of glucagon-like peptide-1s in this debate, and the reality of CSPs already being administered past their assigned BUDs by patients at home. These conversations reinforced the



importance of continued collaboration as pharmacy practice continues to evolve.

Experiences like this help Utah remain informed about national trends, regulatory developments, and best practices that support pharmacists and protect the public. I appreciated the opportunity to participate on behalf of the Board and look forward to further contributing to the promotion of education, patient safety, and professional excellence within Utah pharmacy practice.

Scammers Threatening Licensees With False Allegations of Drug Trafficking

The Utah Division of Professional Licensing (DOPL) has recently received reports that a fraudulent letter is being distributed to licensees, threatening suspension of their professional license due to allegations of illegal drug trafficking.

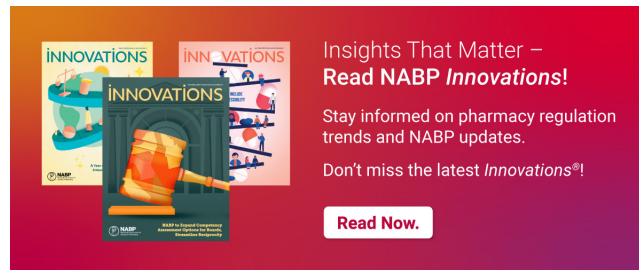
This letter is especially concerning because it carries the DOPL logo, the official state seal, and the agency's contact information. DOPL communicates with licensees several times before suspending or revoking a license. If you receive a suspicious letter that fits this description, do

not give any personal financial information over the phone. Call DOPL directly at 801-530-6628 or email b3@utah.gov to verify the letter's authenticity.

Please visit the [DOPL Pharmacy website](#) on the "Welcome" tab to see a copy of the scam letter and the warning.

Recognition of Service: Christopher Sheard

DOPL and Utah Board of Pharmacy extend their highest praise and thanks to **Christopher Sheard** for his distinguished services on the Board. Chris' sharp insights, level-headed guidance, and leadership were crucial in shaping policies that balanced the real-world needs of the pharmacy profession with public safety. We thank Chris for his invaluable contributions and wish him the absolute best!



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