



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H.
Commissioner

Dennis P. Whalen
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Dear Administrator,

The Department of Health has announced that on April 19, 2006, regulations will go into effect that exempt all New York State hospitals from the new Public Health Law requirement for their staff practitioners to use official New York State prescriptions for outpatient prescribing of non-controlled substances. The one-year exemption will be in effect through April 19, 2007. There is no application process to receive the exemption, which also applies to clinics and other health services that are a part of the hospital.

The prescribing exemption will continue to be in effect after April 19, 2007 for those hospitals that have implemented and are utilizing an electronic prescription system to transmit prescriptions to pharmacies capable of receiving them. The exemption will expire on April 19, 2007 for those hospitals that do not implement an electronic prescription system by that date.

It is very important to note that the prescribing exemption applies **only** to the prescribing of non-controlled substances. **Written prescriptions for controlled substances must be issued on an official New York State prescription.**

For questions about the new law, official prescriptions, or the prescribing exemption for hospitals, please contact the Department's Official Prescription Program toll-free at (866) 811-7957.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

James Giglio, Director
Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement

Martin J. Conroy, Director
Bureau of Hospital and Primary Care Services