



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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TO: ALL NEW YORK STATE PRACTITIONERS
FROM: JAMES GIGLIO, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT
DATE: February 2007
SUBJECT: CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE AND OFFICIAL PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM UPDATE

Prescribing Anabolic Steroids

New York State Public Health Law, Section 3306, classifies all anabolic steroids as schedule II controlled substances. As with all schedule II controlled substances, prescriptions for anabolic steroids cannot be refilled and are limited to a 30-day supply of the drug. However, a practitioner may prescribe up to a six-month supply of an anabolic steroid for treatment of one of the following approved conditions:

- Hormone deficiency states in males;
- Gynecologic conditions that are responsive with anabolic steroids;
- Metastatic breast cancer in women;
- Anemia; and
- Angioedema.

When prescribing more than a 30-day supply of an anabolic steroid to treat an approved condition, a practitioner must write on the prescription either the condition being treated or the notation "Code F".

Note: Because Anabolic Steroids are Schedule II controlled substances in New York State, Physician's Assistants are not authorized to issue prescriptions for these drugs.

Oral Prescribing of Hypodermic Needles and Syringes

New regulations now in effect authorize practitioners to orally prescribe to a pharmacist up to 100 hypodermic syringes and/or needles at a time. Within 72 hours of authorizing such oral prescription, the practitioner must send a written follow-up prescription to the pharmacy.

Controlled Substances for Office Use

Public Health Law, Section 3320, requires practitioners to obtain any controlled substances for use in their practice only from a manufacturer or distributor licensed by the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement. Controlled substance prescriptions issued "For Office Use" are not valid for dispensing by a pharmacy, since such prescriptions must be issued solely for a specific patient.

Note: Practitioners who dispense controlled substances to patients are required by law to submit dispensing information to the Department of Health. The information must be submitted electronically through a Health Provider Network (HPN) account by the 15th of the month following the month in which the drug was dispensed.

The controlled substance law and regulations may be viewed online at: www.nyhealth.gov/professionals/narcotic. Practitioners with questions about official prescriptions or controlled substances may contact the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement at (866) 811-7957 or online at: narcotic@health.state.ny.us