

PharmacyUpdate

New York State Department of Health

Fall 2008

Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement

Submission of Controlled Substance Prescription Information

Effective January 1, 2009, all pharmacies are required to electronically transmit controlled substance prescription information, including payment type and number of refills, to the Department of Health. Pharmacies that utilize a software vendor to submit controlled substance prescription information should contact their vendor to ensure their pharmacy will be in compliance with all requirements. Pharmacies that submit controlled substance prescription information directly to the Department may review the reporting requirements at <http://www.health.state.ny.us/professionals/narcotic/index.htm> in the "Official Prescription Program" section.



Requirements for Disposal of Controlled Substances

Section 80.51 of Title 10 regulations requires pharmacies to dispose of expired, deteriorated, or unwanted controlled substances by one of the following methods:

- Return the controlled substances to the licensed distributor or manufacturer from whom they were purchased. **Distributors and manufacturers are required to accept full packages but may accept partial packages if they wish.**
- Surrender the controlled substances to a reverse distributor approved and licensed by the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement to accept such substances for disposal. **A list of approved reverse distributors is available by contacting the Bureau.**
- Request written approval from the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement to

destroy the controlled substances on-site. **Required approval forms are available on the Bureau's website.**

Dispensing Anabolic Steroids

New York State Public Health Law, Section 3306, classifies all anabolic steroids, including testosterone, 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."

Dispensing Buprenorphine for Opiate Addiction

Pharmacists are authorized to dispense prescriptions for buprenorphine (ie; Suboxone®, Subutex®) issued by qualified physicians for the treatment of opiate addiction. In addition to all information required by controlled substance law and regulations, such prescriptions must contain the X-registration number assigned to the physician by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Prescriptions for buprenorphine may be refilled up to 5 times within 6 months from the date of issuance, if authorized by the prescriber.



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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