

# PharmacyUpdate

New York State Department of Health

Spring 2008

Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement

## Pharmacies Must Submit Correct Prescription Information

Section 3333(4) of the Public Health Law requires pharmacies to submit information to the Department of Health regarding all prescriptions dispensed for controlled substances. The prescription information required to be submitted is specified in section 80.73(f) of Title 10 regulations. Such information must be submitted in correct form no later than the 15th of the month following the month in which the controlled substance was dispensed.

The Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement closely analyzes all controlled substance prescription information submitted by pharmacies. The Bureau has received numerous submissions containing

incorrect or incomplete information regarding the official prescription serial number, the prescribing practitioner's DEA registration number, and the metric quantity and day's supply of controlled substance dispensed. Some pharmacies have submitted erroneous prescription information containing an invalid practitioner DEA registration number with a numerical sequence that allows it to be accepted into the pharmacy's data entry system.

The Department of Health utilizes controlled substance prescription information to carry out important public health initiatives and law enforcement responsibilities. Pharmacies are advised

to exercise utmost care when entering and submitting all required prescription information.

**Pharmacies that fail to submit correct prescription information, or willfully submit incorrect prescription information, are in violation of the Public Health Law and will be referred to the Department's Division of Legal Affairs for possible commencement of a legal action.** Pharmacies having questions regarding the submission of prescription information should contact the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement at 866-811-7957, Option 1.

## Prescriptions for Hypodermic Needles and Syringes

A written prescription for a hypodermic needle and/or syringe is required to be issued on an official New York State prescription. This requirement also applies to written prescriptions for hypodermic needles and syringes containing pre-filled medications. All official prescriptions for hypodermic needles and syringes are valid for 2 years from the date the prescriptions are signed and dated by the prescribing practitioner.

In an emergency, a practitioner may orally prescribe up to 100 hypodermic

needles and/or syringes to a pharmacist. The prescribing practitioner is required to send a follow-up official prescription to the pharmacy within 72 hours. If the pharmacist fails to receive such prescription, he or she must record on the oral prescription memorandum "Prescription Not Received" and sign and date the recording.

**Important note:** Prescriptions for hypodermic needles and syringes may not be transferred to another pharmacy. Also, electronic prescriptions for hypodermic needle and/or syringes prescription are not currently allowed.

## Dispensing Out-of-State Prescriptions

Pharmacists may dispense controlled and non-controlled substances prescribed on non-official prescriptions issued by out-of-state practitioners if the prescriptions contain all information required by New York State law. When transmitting prescription information to the Department of Health from out-of-state prescriptions for controlled substances, pharmacists should enter the letter 'Z' eight times in the field for the prescription serial number.



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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[www.nyhealth.gov/professionals/narcotic](http://www.nyhealth.gov/professionals/narcotic)