

PharmacyUpdate

New York State Department of Health

Summer 2007



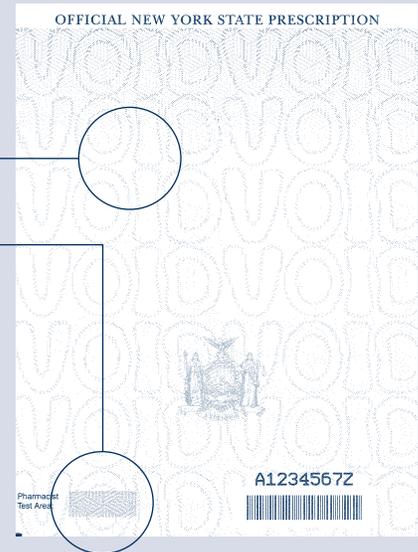
Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement

Official New York State Prescription Security Awareness

Pharmacists should utilize the built in security features of an official New York State prescription to verify its authenticity for dispensing. The security features include the following:

- The word **VOID** will appear on the prescription if it has been copied, scanned, or physically or chemically erased.
- The **Pharmacist Test Area** on the front of the prescription is heat-sensitive ink and the color will change from blue to light blue or transparent when rubbed.
- The **Secure Standard Register** on the back of the prescription is heat-sensitive ink and the color will change from orange to yellow when rubbed.

Pharmacists should also check the clarity of the official prescription's serial number and bar code and report any suspicious prescription to the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) office in your region. A list of official prescriptions reported as lost or stolen is updated daily and is posted on the BNE web site at: www.nyhealth.gov/professionals/narcotic.



Dispensing Controlled Substances 'For Office Use' Prohibited

The Public Health Law requires a practitioner to obtain controlled substances for office use **only** from a manufacturer or distributor licensed by the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement. A pharmacy may not supply controlled substances to a practitioner for office use unless that pharmacy is licensed by BNE as a manufacturer or distributor. 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.

Pharmacy Updates Now Issued Quarterly

BNE will now be issuing its 'Controlled Substance and Official Prescription Program Update' on a quarterly basis. The quarterly updates will replace the monthly updates that were previously issued to pharmacies. Pharmacists can continue to view the updates on the BNE web site.

Oral Prescriptions for Controlled Substances

The controlled substance law and regulations authorize **only** a practitioner to orally prescribe a controlled substance to a pharmacist. Nurses or other office

personnel are **not** authorized to phone in a controlled substance prescription to a pharmacist. Only oral prescriptions for controlled substances that are phoned in by a practitioner are valid for dispensing.

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



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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www.nyhealth.gov/professionals/narcotic