

# PractitionerUpdate

New York State Department of Health

Summer 2009

Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement

## Official Prescriptions to Include New Patient Safety Feature

A Patient Safety Feature will be added to Official Prescription forms for the purpose of decreasing medical errors. The New York State Department of Health is in the process of adding a check box feature to the back of Official Prescriptions so that prescribers can communicate to the pharmacist the general purpose for which the medication has been prescribed.

- Utilization of the check boxes is *optional*, but will be strongly encouraged.
- The Department *will not* collect patient treatment information under this program, the check boxes are solely designed to be a communication between the prescriber and the pharmacist.
- The Department will begin phasing in Official Prescription forms that contain the new Patient Safety Feature. Prescribers are encouraged to utilize their existing Official Prescription forms before ordering the forms that contain the new feature.
- Orders for Official Prescriptions will be automatically filled with the new forms once they become available.

Questions? Call the New York State Official Prescription Program at 1-866-811-7957.

Prescribers--prevent medical errors!  
Complete box below for treatment category.  
Questions, please call the NYS Official Prescription Program at 866-811-7957 (Option 2)

	Cardiovascular	
	Gastrointestinal	
	Antibiotic/ Anti-Infective	
	Pain/ Inflammation	
	Cough/Cold	
	Respiratory	
	Central Nervous System	
	Genital/ Urology	
	Endocrine	
	Other	

## Official New York State Prescription Forms Are Not Transferable

Official New York State Prescription forms are issued to registered practitioners authorized to write prescriptions and to registered institutional facilities. Prescription forms and facility labels issued to a facility may be used by staff practitioners only for patients of the registered facility. Electronic Medical Record (EMR) forms issued to a group practice may be utilized at the location of the practice by any registered practitioner within that group. Official New York State Prescription forms may not be reproduced and are not transferable.

## On-Line Practitioner Notification Program

The Department of Health is developing its automated Practitioner Notification Program to allow New York State licensed practitioners to have secure on-line access to his or her patient's recent controlled substance prescription history. Future Practitioner Updates will have additional information regarding this important public health initiative. In order to take advantage of this program, when available, practitioners will need to establish an on-line account on the Department's Health Commerce System (HCS) by following the instructions at <https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/pub/>. Practitioners who have already established an HCS account are not required to establish another account.

## Address Required on Prescriptions, Post Office Boxes Not Acceptable

Official New York State Prescriptions issued for controlled substances must contain the address of the ultimate user. If the ultimate user is an animal, the prescription must contain the address of the owner or person in custody of the animal. The address should be where the ultimate user resides (Example: 123 Water Street or 5678 County Route 1). A Post Office box is not an acceptable address.



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT

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[www.nyhealth.gov/professionals/narcotic](http://www.nyhealth.gov/professionals/narcotic)