

Important Hurricane Helene Information Virginia Board of Pharmacy

In response to flooding from Hurricane Helene that has displaced individuals and interrupted services and communications, the Virginia Board of Pharmacy offers the following information during this declared state of emergency.

Schedule VI

- Pursuant to 18VAC110-20-320, an authorized refill may be dispensed early provided the pharmacist documents a valid reason for the necessity of the early refill.
- Additionally, pursuant to §54.1-3410(C), a prescription for a drug controlled by Schedule VI, including insulin, may be refilled without authorization from the prescriber if reasonable effort has been made to communicate with the prescriber, and the pharmacist has determined that he is not available and the patient's health would be in imminent danger without the benefits of the drug. Authorization to refill under this subdivision also exists when the pharmacist only has access to the label on a prescription container. The pharmacist shall inform the patient of the prescriber's unavailability and that the refill is being made without his authorization. The pharmacist shall promptly inform the prescriber of such refill. The date and quantity of the refill, the prescriber's unavailability, and the rationale for the refill shall be noted on the reverse side of the prescription.

Schedule III-V

- Pursuant to 18VAC110-20-320, an authorized refill may be dispensed early provided the pharmacist documents a valid reason for the necessity of the early refill.
- Additionally, a 72-hour supply of a drug controlled by Schedule III-V may be refilled without authorization from the prescriber if, after reasonable effort has been made to contact him, the pharmacist ascertains that he is not available and the patient's health would be in imminent danger without the benefits of the drug. Authorization to refill under this subdivision also exists when the pharmacist only has access to the label on a prescription container. The pharmacist shall inform the patient of the prescriber's unavailability and that the refill is being made without his authorization. The pharmacist shall promptly inform the prescriber of such refill. The date and quantity of the refill, the prescriber's unavailability and the rationale for the refill shall be noted on the reverse side of the prescription.

Schedule II

- A one-time early dispensing of a Schedule II prescription for a chronic condition that is due for dispensing within the next 7 days is authorized. Dispensers must document the reason for the early refill.
- Additionally, a Schedule II prescription may be dispensed pursuant to the emergency allowance in 18VAC110-20-290 copied below.

18VAC110-20-290

C. In case of an emergency situation, a pharmacist may dispense a drug listed in Schedule II upon receiving oral authorization of a prescribing practitioner provided that:

1. The quantity prescribed and dispensed is limited to the amount adequate to treat the patient during the emergency period;
2. The prescription shall be immediately reduced to writing by the pharmacist and shall contain all information required in § 54.1-3410 of the Drug Control Act, except for the signature of the prescribing practitioner;
3. If the pharmacist does not know the practitioner, the pharmacist shall make a reasonable effort to determine that the oral authorization came from a practitioner using the practitioner's phone number as listed in the telephone directory or other good-faith efforts to ensure the practitioner's identity; and
4. Within seven days after authorizing an emergency oral prescription, the prescribing practitioner shall cause a written prescription for the emergency quantity prescribed to be delivered to the dispensing pharmacist. In addition to conforming to the requirements of § 54.1-3410 of the Drug Control Act, the prescription shall have written on its face "Authorization for Emergency Dispensing" and the date of the oral order. The written prescription may be delivered to the pharmacist in person or by mail postmarked within the seven-day period or transmitted as an electronic prescription in accordance with federal law and regulation to include annotation of the electronic prescription with the original authorization and date of the oral order. Upon receipt, the dispensing pharmacist shall attach the paper prescription to the oral emergency prescription, which had earlier been reduced to writing. The pharmacist shall notify the nearest office of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the board if the prescribing practitioner fails to deliver a written prescription to the pharmacist. Failure of the pharmacist to do so shall void the authority conferred by this subdivision to dispense without a written prescription of a prescribing practitioner.