



Dispensing Prescriptions by Prescribers Experiencing a Change of Status

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This guidance document is intended to provide information to pharmacists who may be presented with a prescription issued by prescriber who recently experienced a change of status.

As used in this guidance, a "change of status" includes, but is not limited to, the following: death, incapacity, suspension, surrender or revocation of the prescriber's license or registration, or permanent relocation.

A prescription issued by a prescriber who experiences a change of status that precludes a continued prescriber-patient relationship may be dispensed by a pharmacist in accordance with the following:

- (1) In the exercise of the pharmacist's professional judgment:
 - (a) The drug is essential to sustain the life of the patient or continue therapy for a chronic condition of the patient; or
 - (b) Failure to dispense the drug to the patient could result in harm to the health of the patient.
- (2) The prescription was issued prior to the prescriber's change of status.
- (3) For a non-controlled substance prescription, a pharmacist may dispense up to a thirty-day supply as provided in the prescription or, if the standard unit of dispensing for the drug exceeds a thirty-day supply, the amount of the drug dispensed shall not exceed the standard unit of dispensing. The pharmacist shall exercise professional judgment in determining the amount of the drug to be dispensed.
- (4) For a controlled substance prescription, a pharmacist may dispense up to a seventy-two-hour supply as provided in the prescription. The pharmacist shall exercise professional judgment in determining the amount of the drug to be dispensed.
- (5) A prescription for a dangerous drug dispensed in accordance with guidance is considered void after the initial dispensing and may not be dispensed again. Following the initial dispensing of the drug, a pharmacist shall utilize a manual or electronic method for invalidating the prescription to prevent further dispensing.

REMINDER: This guidance has already been incorporated into an administrative rule that will be effective later this year.

