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Board of Registration in Pharmacy
Drug Control Program

Policy 2018-01: Permitted Prescription Changes and Additions

I. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, through the Board of Registration in Pharmacy ("Board") and the Drug Control Program ("DCP"), adopts this policy to advise pharmacists of the changes or additions that may be made to new prescriptions.

II. Prescription information that may NEVER be changed or added:

For all schedules (Schedule II – VI), a new prescription is required for any of the following changes or additions:

A. patient's name (i.e., change to different patient)
B. controlled substance prescribed (except generic substitution)
C. prescriber's name
D. prescriber's signature
E. earliest date to be filled (Schedule II only)

III. Prescription information that MAY be changed or added:

A. <u>Schedule II prescriptions:</u>

i. The following may be changed or added, **<u>after consultation with the prescriber</u>**, unless otherwise noted:
   a. date of issue (date written) may only be added if omitted
   b. prescriber's address
   c. patient's address
      i. may be added if omitted without consultation
      ii. may only be changed after consultation with the <u>prescriber or authorized agent</u>
   d. prescriber's DEA number may be added without consultation
   e. directions for use
   f. dosage form

g. drug strength
h. quantity prescribed
i. supervising physician's name of mid-level prescriber

ii. The following may be added and the prescriber's office should be notified if the following language is omitted:
a. "no substitution" language
b. "partial fill upon patient request" language

B. **Schedule III - VI prescriptions:**

i. The following may be changed or added to new prescriptions, **after consultation with the prescriber or authorized agent**, unless otherwise noted:
a. date of issue (date written) may only be added if omitted
b. prescriber's address
c. patient's address
i. may be added if omitted without consultation
ii. may only be changed after consultation
d. prescriber's DEA number may be added without consultation
e. directions for use
f. dosage form
g. drug strength
h. quantity prescribed
i. refill information
j. supervising physician's name of mid-level prescriber
k. "no substitution" language may be added and the prescriber's office should be notified if omitted

If deemed appropriate in the pharmacist's professional judgement, the **days' supply dispensed** (e.g., 30-day supply with 11 refills vs. 90-day supply with 3 refills) **may be changed without consultation only for drugs that do not require PMP reporting.**

In the case of drug classes where a change in days' supply may cause clinical concern, the Board recommends that prescribers be consulted upon initiation of new therapy and for any changes. Examples of such drug classes include behavioral health drugs and narrow therapeutic index drugs.

IV. With each change, the following information must be documented in the computerized pharmacy system or on the written prescription:

A. the date
B. item changed or added

C. name of the authorizing prescriber, if applicable
D. name of the pharmacist accepting / making the change

Please direct any questions to: Pharmacy.Admin@mass.gov