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**Board of Registration in Pharmacy
Drug Control Program**

Policy 2023-04: Continuity of Care

Under the following conditions, Schedule VI medications may be provided to ensure patient continuity of care if a prescription has **no remaining refills**, and the pharmacist is unable to obtain prescriber authorization in a timely manner.

- A. Using professional judgement, a pharmacist may dispense a quantity not to exceed a 30-day supply or the smallest available unit of use packaging.
- B. Only Schedule VI medications that do not require reporting to the PMP may be provided (i.e., gabapentin cannot be provided).
- C. The circumstances regarding the continuity of care dispensing must be documented.
- D. The pharmacy must develop policies and procedures for continuity of care dispensing.

When a **prescriber-patient relationship has ended** because a prescriber has ceased to practice for any reason, established drug therapy may be continued in order to enable the patient time to establish a relationship with another prescriber. In order to do so, the following conditions must be met:

- A. The prescription must have been issued pursuant to a proper prescriber-patient relationship while the prescriber was still in practice.
- B. The prescription is within its expiry period based on its date of issuance (e.g., Schedule III written within 6 months, etc.).
- C. The previously filled Schedule III – VI prescription has remaining authorized refills.
- D. If multiple Schedule II prescriptions had been issued in accordance with 21 CFR §1306.12, they may be honored.
- E. The pharmacist uses their professional judgment to ensure that the dispensing of the medication remains appropriate.

Supersedes Policy 2020-06

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