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Board of Registration in Pharmacy

Policy 2019-04: Transfer of Unfilled Prescriptions

I. Introduction

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy has established a prescription transfer policy allowing for the transfer of certain unfilled original prescriptions.

II. Unfilled Original Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances (EPCS) in Schedules II – V

Unfilled EPCS for Schedules II – V may be transferred from one pharmacy to another in accordance with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)'s current rules or policies. The DEA's position regarding transfers can be found here:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.ascp.com/resource/resmgr/files/DEA_Redirection_Issue.pdf

III. Unfilled Paper, Fax or Oral Prescriptions for Controlled Substances in Schedules II – V

It is not permissible to transfer any original unfilled paper, fax or oral prescription for federally controlled substances. Entering an unfilled paper, fax or oral prescription into an electronic database does not transform the prescription into an EPCS. These prescriptions remain subject to all the regulations applicable to paper, fax, or oral prescriptions.

However, after the original prescription is filled, the refills may be transferred in accordance with 21 C.F.R. § 1306.25 and 247 CMR 9.00.

IV. Unfilled Electronic, Paper, Fax or Oral Prescriptions for Controlled Substances in Schedule VI

Unfilled electronic, paper, fax or oral Schedule VI prescriptions may be transferred to another pharmacy in the same manner as required by the DEA rules for the transfer of refills.

Please direct any questions to: Pharmacy.Admin@MassMail.State.MA.US