



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Board-Licensed Retail Pharmacies

FROM: Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy

DATE: October 13, 2022

SUBJECT: Promethazine with Codeine Products

The Board is aware that promethazine with codeine products have become highly sought-after products for illicit use. This has resulted in fraudulent prescriptions and pharmacy robberies across the country.

Since this creates a safety issue for both pharmacy staff and the public, several pharmacies have requested to waive the requirement to stock these products. 247 CMR 6.02(4) requires pharmacies to maintain a sufficient variety of medications to meet the needs of the community.

Due to the current situation, the Board does not intend to enforce the regulation to stock promethazine with codeine products making waivers unnecessary.

However, if a valid prescription is received, the pharmacist must contact the prescriber to find an alternative product or arrange for the medication to be provided by another means (e.g., mail order, central fill, etc.)

In order to deter thefts, the Board has no objection to the posting of signage stating that these products are not available.

The Board will continue to monitor the situation over the next year and will reassess at that time.