

65-1637b. Transmission of prescription drug orders; filling and refilling of prescriptions; refusal to fill; brand exchange. (a) The pharmacist shall exercise professional judgment regarding the accuracy, validity and authenticity of any prescription order consistent with federal and state laws and rules and regulations. A pharmacist shall not dispense a prescription drug if the pharmacist, in the exercise of professional judgment, determines that the prescription is not a valid prescription order.

(b) The prescriber may authorize an agent to transmit to the pharmacy a prescription order orally, by facsimile transmission or by electronic transmission provided that the first and last names of the transmitting agent are included in the order.

(c) (1) A new written or electronically prepared and transmitted prescription order shall be manually or electronically signed by the prescriber. If transmitted by the prescriber's agent, the first and last names of the transmitting agent shall be included in the order.

(2) If the prescription is for a controlled substance and is written or printed from an electronic prescription application, the prescription shall be manually signed by the prescriber prior to delivery of the prescription to the patient or prior to facsimile transmission of the prescription to the pharmacy.

(3) An electronically prepared prescription shall not be electronically transmitted to the pharmacy if the prescription has been printed prior to electronic transmission. An electronically prepared and transmitted prescription which is printed following electronic transmission shall be clearly labeled as a copy, not valid for dispensing.

(4) In consultation with industry, the state board of pharmacy shall conduct a study on the issues of electronic transmission of prior authorizations and step therapy protocols. The report on the results of such study shall be completed and submitted to the legislature no later than January 15, 2013.

(5) The board is hereby authorized to conduct pilot projects related to any new technology implementation when deemed necessary and practicable, except that no state moneys shall be expended for such purpose.

(d) An authorization to refill a prescription order or to renew or continue an existing drug therapy may be transmitted to a pharmacist through oral communication, in writing, by facsimile transmission or by electronic transmission initiated by or directed by the prescriber.

(1) If the transmission is completed by the prescriber's agent, and the first and last names of the transmitting agent are included in the order, the prescriber's signature is not required on the fax or alternate electronic transmission.

(2) If the refill order or renewal order differs in any manner from the original order, such as a change of the drug strength, dosage form or directions for use, the prescriber shall sign the order as provided by paragraph (1).

(e) Regardless of the means of transmission to a pharmacy, only a pharmacist or a pharmacist intern shall be authorized to receive a new prescription order from a prescriber or transmitting agent. A pharmacist, a pharmacist intern or a registered pharmacy technician may receive a refill or renewal order from a prescriber or transmitting agent if such registered pharmacy technician's supervising pharmacist has authorized that function.

(f) A refill is one or more dispensings of a prescription drug or device that results in the patient's receipt of the quantity authorized by the prescriber for a single fill as indicated on the prescription order. A prescription for a schedule III, IV or V controlled substance may authorize no more than five refills within six months following the date on which the prescription is issued.

(g) Prescriptions shall only be filled or refilled in accordance with the following requirements:

(1) All prescriptions shall be filled in strict conformity with any directions of the prescriber, except that a pharmacist who receives a prescription order for a brand name drug product may exercise brand exchange with a view toward achieving a lesser cost to the purchaser unless:

(A) The prescriber, in the case of a prescription electronically signed by the prescriber, includes the statement "dispense as written" on the prescription;

(B) the prescriber, in the case of a written prescription signed by the prescriber, writes in the prescriber's own handwriting "dispense as written" on the prescription;

(C) the prescriber, in the case of a prescription other than one in writing signed by the prescriber, expressly indicates the prescription is to be dispensed as communicated; or

(D) the federal food and drug administration has determined that a drug product of the same generic name is not bioequivalent to the prescribed brand name prescription medication.

(h) If a prescription order contains a statement that during any particular time the prescription may be refilled at will, there shall be no limitation as to the number of times that such prescription may be refilled except that it may not be refilled after the expiration of the time specified or one year after the prescription was originally issued, whichever occurs first.

(i) Prescription orders shall be recorded in writing by the pharmacist and the record so made by the pharmacist shall constitute the original prescription to be dispensed by the pharmacist. This record, if telephoned by other than the prescriber, shall bear the full name of the person so telephoning. Nothing in this section shall be construed as altering or affecting in any way laws of this state or any federal act requiring a written prescription order.

(j) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), no prescription shall be refilled unless authorized by the prescriber either in the original prescription or by oral order which is reduced promptly to writing and filled by the pharmacist.

(2) A pharmacist may refill a prescription order issued on or after the effective date of this act for any prescription drug except a drug listed on schedule II of the uniform controlled substances act or a narcotic drug listed on any schedule of the uniform controlled substances act without the prescriber's authorization when all reasonable efforts to contact the prescriber have failed and when, in the pharmacist's professional judgment, continuation of the medication is necessary for the patient's health, safety and welfare. Such prescription refill shall only be in an amount judged by the pharmacist to be sufficient to maintain the patient until the prescriber can be contacted, but in no event shall a refill under this paragraph be more than a seven day supply or one package of the drug. However, if the prescriber states on a prescription that there shall be no emergency refilling of that prescription, then the pharmacist shall not dispense any emergency medication pursuant to that prescription. A pharmacist who refills a prescription order under this subsection (j)(2) shall contact the prescriber of the prescription order on the next business day subsequent to the refill or as soon thereafter as possible. No pharmacist shall be required to refill any prescription order under this subsection (j)(2). A prescriber shall not be subject to liability for any damages resulting from the refilling of a prescription order by a pharmacist under this subsection (j)(2) unless such damages are occasioned by the gross negligence or willful or wanton acts or omissions by the prescriber.

(k) If any prescription order contains a provision that the prescription may be refilled a specific number of times

within or during any particular period, such prescription shall not be refilled except in strict conformity with such requirements.

(l) Any pharmacist who exercises brand exchange and dispenses a less expensive drug product shall not charge the purchaser more than the regular and customary retail price for the dispensed drug.

(m) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed as preventing a pharmacist from refusing to fill or refill any prescription if in the pharmacist's professional judgment and discretion such pharmacist is of the opinion that it should not be filled or refilled.

History: L. 2012, ch. 107, § 3; L. 2014, ch. 49, § 2; July 1.