



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

DRUG CONTROL DIVISION

Guidance for Licensed Practitioners:

Prescriptions Dispensed by a Hospital to Non-Hospital Patients when an Area Pharmacy is not Open

Section 20-622 of the Connecticut General Statutes allows a “licensed practitioner” to order a 24-hour supply of medication, excluding controlled substances, to be dispensed by a hospital emergency department to patients that have not been admitted to the hospital, under specific circumstances. This provision applies only when the services of a licensed pharmacy are not available within a five-mile radius of the hospital where the patient is being treated.

Licensed Practitioner is defined in Section 20-622 as “a physician on the staff of such hospital or other prescribing practitioner associated with such hospital who has examined such patient and determined the patient’s therapeutic needs.”

Prescriptions Dispensed by a Hospital to their Patients upon Discharge

Section 20-622 of the Connecticut General Statutes does not affect a hospital’s ability to dispense medications to a patient of that hospital upon discharge from the facility.¹ Medication dispensed by a hospital to a patient at discharge is a continuance of, or supplement to, what has been prescriptively administered at the hospital while the recipient was an inpatient, emergency facility patient, or outpatient. The quantity of the medication that is dispensed by the hospital to a patient that is being discharged shall be for a “limited and reasonable time, as continuation of, or supplement to, the treatment that was administered at the hospital to the patient.”²

¹ Pursuant to 20-14e of the Connecticut General Statutes, such dispensing shall comply with any and all labeling, record keeping and dispensing requirements. If the medication is a controlled substance, information about the dispensing of the medication would have to be uploaded into the Connecticut Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System (CPMRS) immediately, but in no event later than the next business day.

² See *Abbott Labs v. Portland Retail Druggists Association*, 425 U.S. 1 (1976).