



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

DRUG CONTROL DIVISION

Prescribing Practitioners,

In light of concerns surrounding COVID-19, the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP), Drug Control Division is issuing a reminder to prescribing practitioners regarding refills and reissuance of controlled substance prescriptions. We understand there may be concern about a prescribing practitioner's ability to ensure that their patients are able to have their prescriptions refilled without an in-person visit.

We want to be sure that practitioners know DCP is dedicated to ensuring that patients get the medication they need to stay healthy in a safe, secure manner.

Practitioners may issue prescription refills for controlled substances using their professional discretion for a patient under their care without seeing the patient in-person within certain parameters:

Requirements for Specific Drug Schedules

- **Schedule II** controlled substance prescriptions cannot be refilled. However, practitioners who have a pre-existing relationship with a patient, and have prescribed a Schedule II controlled substance in the past may *reissue* a Schedule II controlled substance prescription to that patient [without an in-person visit]. *
- **Schedule III and IV** controlled substance prescriptions may be refilled up to five (5) times in six (6) months as authorized by the prescribing practitioner.
- **Schedule V** controlled substance prescriptions may be refilled as authorized by the prescribing practitioner.

**No prescription for a Schedule II controlled substance may contain more than one prescription.*

Documentation and Data Entry Requirements

In instances where the prescribing practitioner determines it is appropriate to prescribe the controlled substance, the practitioner shall review the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) in accordance with the current requirements.

450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 901 Hartford, CT 06103 | (860) 713-6100

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The prescription should be transmitted to the pharmacy using Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances (EPCS) unless the following conditions exist:

- A temporary technological failure
- Impractical for a patient to obtain substances prescribed by EPCS in a timely manner
- The pharmacy is located outside of Connecticut
- EPCS may negatively impact patient care
- The practitioner has a waiver

Practitioners should document the prescription as required by law.

Other Circumstances

While it's preferable that practitioners utilize EPCS, we recognize that there may be circumstances by which they need to refill or reissue a prescription via phone, fax, or mail. In those circumstances, there may be additional requirements for prescription verification at pharmacies.

We highly recommend that any practitioner with questions about these exceptions visit our [Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances Information Page](#).

More information about controlled substance prescriptions can be found in our guide: [Prescribing Controlled Substances in the State of Connecticut](#).

Please, if you have any questions regarding prescribing controlled substances during this time, and your ability to ensure your patients have the medication they need – reach out to us, and we will do everything we can to help.

Thank you,



Rodrick Marriott

Director

Department of Consumer Protection – Drug Control Division