

Your
Logo
Here

Guidance for Dispensing Controlled Prescriptions

Developed for www.sandiegosafeprescribing.org by the PDATF Pharmacy Committee



■ Examine the Prescription

- Evidence of possible forgery?
 - Prescriber's handwriting is too legible
 - Quantities, directions or dosages differ from usual medical usage
 - Prescription does not comply with the acceptable standard abbreviations or appears to be textbook presentation
 - Directions are written in full with no abbreviations
 - Prescription appears to be photocopied
 - Prescription does not contain all required security features
 - Prescription is written in different color inks or written in different handwritings
- Stolen prescription pad from physician's office or hospital?
- Falsification of physician call back number?
- Is DEA number of prescriber correct?

■ Check Prior Pharmacy Records and CURES

- Refill too soon?
- Therapeutic duplication?
- Doctor / Pharmacy shopping?
- Prescriber's prescription pattern different from that of other prescribers in the area?
- Prescriber writes significantly more prescriptions (or in larger quantity) compared to others in your area?
- Prescriber writes simultaneous prescriptions for both stimulants and depressants for the same patient?

■ Briefly Assess the Patient

- Appear to be physically in pain? Nervous demeanor?
- Patient returns to the pharmacy more frequently than expected?
- Patient presents multiple prescriptions for the same drug written for different people?

■ Red Flags

- The individual(s) are often cash paying
- The individual(s) are not regular patrons or residents of the community
- Patient, prescriber, and/or pharmacy are a far distances from each other
- Influx of non-regular patrons receiving same controlled drug(s) or all bearing similar prescriptions from the same physician
- The prescription is written by a physician not specialized in diagnosis code i.e. a dermatologist prescribing ADHD medication
- They present a prescription with a combination or "cocktail" of frequently abused controlled substances (opioids, benzodiazepines, and muscle relaxants)

■ After Attempting To Resolve Red Flags: For Prescriptions Suspected Or Identified To Be Fraudulent:

- Obtain and copy a picture ID of the individual for your records.
- If prescription is deemed fraudulent; keep the prescription, do not return to patient. (If patient insists on getting back, make a copy of prescription and photo ID of patient and retain).
- Report fraudulent prescription to DEA at www.dea.gov. Go to OPERATIONS and then to SUBMIT A TIP
- Document all information including but not limited to:
 1. What actions were taken by pharmacy staff.
 2. Brief overview of interaction with patient.
- REMEMBER – it is NOT considered a HIPAA violation if you give information to Law Enforcement for the purposes of a crime committed on the premises (45 C.F.R. § 164.512(f))

INSTITUTION STYLE SECURITY PRESCRIPTION FORM SAMPLE IN A MULTIPLE DRUG FORMAT

Institution forms can only be used by health care facilities licensed under Health & Safety Code section 1250. Generally, these are 24-hour acute care hospital skilled nursing facilities, etc. The forms are preprinted with the facility and the facility's "designated prescriber" information as indicated below. The actual prescriber information will be printed, handwritten, or stamped on the form when the prescription is written.

VOID APPEARS WHEN COPIED • **REVERSE RX** • **MICROPRINT SIGNATURE LINE** • **CA WATERMARK**

Institution's State License Number: 999999-0001

Institution Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____

Designated Prescriber: Designated Prescriber Name, Category of Licensure, DEA Number, State License Number

Prescriber Name & Category of Licensure: _____ DEA Number: _____ State License Number: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Name: _____ DOB: _____
Address: _____ Sex: M F

1) Quantity: 1-24 25-49 50-74
 75-100 101-150 151-over
Unit: _____ Refills: 0 - 1-2-3-4-5
 Do Not Substitute Initials: _____

2) **SAMPLE ONLY - ACTUAL FORMS WILL VARY**

3) Quantity: 1-24 25-49 50-74
 75-100 101-150 151-over
Unit: _____ Refills: 0 - 1-2-3-4-5
 Do Not Substitute Initials: _____

X _____ Date: _____

Prescription is void if the number of drugs is not noted: _____

THERMOCHROMIC INK SYMBOL • **QUANTITY CHECK BOXES** • **CHEMICAL VOID PROTECTION**

- Thermochromic ink feature** changes color or disappears temporarily with hot breath or when rubbed briskly. It slowly returns to normal as it cools.
- Statement** allows multiple prescriptions on one form. Prescribers must note the number of drugs prescribed.
- Batch/Lot Numbers** - Unique batch and sequential lot numbers assigned by approved security printers. Numbers are not tracked by the State.
- Actual Prescriber** - the prescription is not valid without the actual prescriber information filled in.
- Opaque Writing** fades or disappears when photocopied repeatedly to lighten.
- Six quantity check boxes** allow quick confirmation that the quantity prescribed has not been altered.
- Do Not Substitute** - if desired, prescriber must check box and initial
- Refills** - CII drugs cannot be refilled, only CIII - V can be refilled.
- Description of security features** in warning bands on face or listed on back of prescription. (see sample of backside)

PRESCRIBER, GROUP PRACTICE, OR CLINIC SECURITY PRESCRIPTION FORM SAMPLE IN SINGLE DRUG FORMAT

VOID APPEARS WHEN COPIED • **REVERSE RX** • **MICROPRINT SIGNATURE LINE** • **CA WATERMARK**

Group Practice Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Telephone Number: _____

Prescriber Name, Category of Licensure, DEA Number, State License Number: Z999999-0001

Name: _____ DOB: _____
Address: _____ Sex: M F

SAMPLE ONLY - ACTUAL FORM DESIGNS WILL VARY

Quantity: 1-24 25-49 50-74
 75-100 101-150 151-over
Unit: _____ Refills: 0 - 1-2-3-4-5
 Do Not Substitute Initials: _____

X _____ Date: _____

Prescription is void if more than one controlled substance is written per blank

THERMOCHROMIC INK SYMBOL • **QUANTITY CHECK BOXES** • **CHEMICAL VOID PROTECTION**

- Thermochromic ink feature** changes color or disappears temporarily with hot breath or when rubbed briskly. It slowly returns to normal as it cools.
- Micropoint Signature Line** - seen only with a magnifier and becomes a solid line when copied, faxes or scanned.
- Description of security features** in warning bands on face or listed on back of prescription.
- Statement** that identifies form as a single drug prescription form
- Batch/Lot Numbers** - Unique batch and sequential lot numbers assigned by approved security printers. Not tracked by the State.
- Opaque Writing** fades or disappears when photocopied repeatedly
- Six quantity check boxes** allow quick confirmation that the quantity prescribed has not been altered.
- Refills** - CII drugs cannot be refilled, only CIII - V can be refilled.
- Do Not Substitute** - prescriber must check box and initial

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES RXs

- Batch/Lot Numbers
- "RX" printed on prescription in opaque writing that will disappear when photocopied
- Six quantity check boxes
- Do Not Substitute box and Initial for MD marked if necessary
- Refills - usually marked 0-1-2-3-4-5 (note that CII drugs CAN NOT be refilled)
- Description of Security Features:
 - Thermochromic Ink - changes color with hot breath and returns to normal as it cools
 - Microprint Signature - seen only with magnifier, becomes solid line when photocopied
 - Statement indicating if Rx has one or multiple RXs per notepad
- Statement indicating if The following **MUST** be preprinted on form:
 - Prescriber name
 - License # from state
 - DEA #
- The following **MUST** be handwritten by prescriber:
 - Signature
 - Date the prescription was written

SAMPLE BACKSIDE OF SECURITY PRESCRIPTION FORM

California Security Prescription California Security Prescription California Security Prescription

Security Features:

- RX logo disappears or changes color temporarily with hot breath or when rubbed briskly with finger.
- Opaque Rx fades or disappears with repeated attempts to lighten
- Microprinted text signature line becomes solid line when copied.
- California Security Prescription watermark on back.
- Repetitive VOID pattern appears across face when copied.
- VOID pattern or stain appears where attempts are made to chemically alter the prescription.
- Quantity range checked confirms quantity prescribed.
- Unique batch number and each form sequentially numbered.
- Order not to substitute.
- Single drug prescription format.
- Preprinted prescriber information.

California Security Prescription Watermark printed in opaque ink- hold at an angle to view.

Description of Security Features (may be on the face of prescription in warning bands instead, see blue bands on sample forms)

SAMPLE ONLY - ACTUAL FORM DESIGNS WILL VARY

California Security Prescription California Security Prescription

- Backside of prescription will have a California Security Prescription Watermark & description of security features