



Louisiana Board of Pharmacy

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MEMORANDUM

To: Pharmacies and Pharmacists
From: Malcolm J. Broussard, Executive Director
Date: January 18, 2019
Re: Electronic Prior Authorizations – Interpretation of Rule

The Board, acting through its President, Carl W. Aron, now issues an interpretation of its recently issued rule relative to the uniform prescription drug prior authorization form.

Act 423 of the 2018 Legislature required the La. State Board of Medical Examiners and the La Board of Pharmacy to jointly promulgate a single uniform prescription drug prior authorization form to be used by all payors in the state. The legislation provided for two exceptions to the mandated use of the single uniform form: (1) when the prescription was generated, signed and transmitted electronically, and (2) when the drug prescribed was a specialty drug.

The Board of Pharmacy promulgated the required rule in the December 2018 edition of the Louisiana Register, with a delayed effective date of January 1, 2019. The new rule created Sections 1129 and 1130, with the former describing the legislative mandate and identifying the enforcement agencies, and the latter containing the form itself.

Section 1129(A) provides “A prescriber or pharmacy required to obtain prior authorization from a third party payor shall complete the Louisiana Uniform Prescription Drug Prior Authorization Form referenced below in Section 1130, either in written form or its electronic equivalent.”

Since the legislation was introduced to remedy the plethora of written forms in use by various third party payors and the resulting confusion for prescribers and dispensers attempting to care for their patients, and since the legislation was not intended to hinder the use of true electronic prior authorization processes, the Board has determined it appropriate to interpret LAC 46:LIII.1129(A) such that ‘*electronic equivalent*’ shall not apply to an electronic prior authorization process which uses the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) SCRIPT Standard to securely exchange prior authorization information between prescribers, pharmacists, and payors.

In the event a third party payor requires the use of a form, either in written or electronic medium, then the prescriber or pharmacist shall use the Louisiana Uniform Prescription Drug Prior Authorization Form referenced in Section 1130 of the Board’s rules. In the alternative, the payor may allow the prescriber or pharmacist to use an electronic prior authorization process which uses the NCPDP SCRIPT Standard to securely exchange prior authorization information.