



Louisiana Board of Pharmacy
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MEMORANDUM

To: Licensees & Interested Parties

From: Malcolm J Broussard, Executive Director

Date: April 14, 2020

Re: COVID-19 Guidance Information – Recommendations for Therapeutic Marijuana Products

The current rules issued by the Board of Medical Examiners for the issuance of recommendations for therapeutic marijuana products require those recommendations to be in written form, and further, to be transmitted by the physician or physician's designee to a marijuana pharmacy by facsimile or other electronic manner that provides for the privacy and security of the medical and health information contained therein. [LAC 46:XLV.7721.C]

We have received requests from multiple marijuana pharmacies describing occurrences where physicians authorized to issue such recommendations are practicing almost exclusively with telemedicine capacity and facsimile capacity is no longer routinely available. The question posed to the Board is whether the pharmacies may receive such written recommendations as email attachments.

While the Board considers the use of email transmission to be a valid form of electronic transmission, we also caution pharmacists to ensure such email transmissions protect the privacy and security of medical and health information. Further, pharmacists should exercise caution to ensure they are not duped by phishing or other forms of fraudulent electronic communications.

NOTICE: In compliance with Act 256 of the 2019 Louisiana Legislature, the Board gives public notice that any information submitted to the Board may become public record unless specifically exempted by the Public Records Law, R.S. 44:1 *et seq.*

NOTICE: In compliance with Act 655 of the 2018 Louisiana Legislature, the Board gives notice to its licensees and applicants of their opportunity to file a complaint about the Board's actions or procedures. You may submit such complaints to one or more of the following: (1) Louisiana Board of Pharmacy; 3388 Brentwood Dr., Baton Rouge, La 70809; 225.925.6496; info@pharmacy.la.gov (2) Committee on House & Governmental Affairs; La. House of Representatives; PO Box 44486; Baton Rouge, LA 70804; 225.342.2403; h&ga@legis.la.gov (3) Committee on Senate & Governmental Affairs; La. Senate; PO Box 94183; Baton Rouge, LA 70804; 225.342.9845; s&g@legis.la.gov