

Title: State of Emergency – Hurricane Laura:
Verbal Marijuana Recommendations

Policy No. I.D.26

Issued: 09-01-2020
Revised: 09-29-2020
Ratified & Extended: 11-18-2020

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1. The Board office received requests from some of the marijuana pharmacies relating that many physician offices were adversely impacted by the severe weather associated with Hurricane Laura, to the extent that many medical office communication systems no longer included access to facsimile or internet services. They requested consideration of a rule waiver to allow for verbal transmission of recommendations for therapeutic marijuana, similar to emergency verbal prescriptions for Schedule II medications, or in the alternative, emergency prescriptions under a state of emergency declaration.
 2. The Board's current rules for transmission of recommendations for therapeutic marijuana are found in §2457 – *Standards of Practice* and require the use of electronic prescriptions [not yet available] or facsimile communications.
 3. The Board has previously issued guidance during the COVID-19 public health emergency [see *PPM.I.D.22*] authorizing the transmission of recommendations via email attachments.
 4. The Board President took notice of the current rule, previously issued guidance, and business interruptions following the hurricane. He then directed staff to issue guidance to the marijuana pharmacies allowing them to accept and execute recommendations for therapeutic marijuana received in verbal form, with cautions to guard against fraudulent activity. Further, the Board President set the expiration date for this waiver at September 30, 2020, noting the opportunity for further extension if warranted.
 5. On September 29, 2020, the Board President took note of the continuing business interruptions in the medical community. He authorized the extension of this temporary waiver until November 30, 2020, noting the opportunity for the full Board to review this policy during their scheduled November 18, 2020 meeting.
 6. During their November 18, 2020 meeting, the members voted to ratify this interim policy, and then extended it until February 28, 2021.

Revision History

11-18-2020 Added Item 6 to extend the expiration date to February 28, 2021.
09-29-2020 Added Item 5.