

Louisiana Board of Pharmacy

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BULLETIN No. 24-01

To:	All pharmacists, pharmacies, pharmacy interns, pharmacy technicians, and candidates
From:	Joe Fontenot, Executive Director
Date:	July 17, 2024
Re:	Act 246 of the 2024 Louisiana Legislature

Act 246 (SB 276) of the 2024 Louisiana Legislature – effective October 1, 2024

This <u>Act</u> creates the crime of coerced criminal abortion by means of fraud when a person knowingly and intentionally engages in the use of an abortion-inducing drug on a pregnant woman, without her knowledge or consent, with the intent to cause an abortion. The Act also adds the drugs mifepristone and misoprostol to Schedule IV of the State's Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law. The legislature directed the Board of Pharmacy to notify all pharmacists in Louisiana about the provisions of the law and to ensure pharmacists are aware that lawful prescriptions for mifepristone and misoprostol <u>may be filled</u> in accordance with <u>R.S. 14:87.9(C)(6)</u>.

According to R.S. 14:87.9(C)(6), which became effective August 1, 2022, a diagnosis or a diagnosis code <u>shall</u> be written on the prescription <u>by the prescriber</u> indicating that the drug is intended for a purpose other than to cause an abortion in violation of this Section of law. It also states that filling a prescription for a drug prescribed for a bona fide medical reason shall not subject the pharmacist or the pharmacy to the criminal consequences of this Section of law.

As mentioned, this state law places all mifepristone and misoprostol containing products in Schedule IV of the state list of controlled substances and will supersede the federal status of a non-controlled substance. All of our licensees are obligated to adhere to the recordkeeping, physical security, and all other requirements applicable to controlled substances listed in Schedule IV.

- Effective October 1, the procurement, possession, distribution, prescribing, and/or dispensing of mifepristone and misoprostol products shall require a current Louisiana CDS license with the Schedule IV privilege.
- For those distributors, practitioners, and pharmacies in possession of mifepristone and misoprostol products on October 1, a complete inventory of such products shall be conducted to establish an opening inventory level. The inventory record shall be stored with other controlled substance inventory records.
- Prescriptions for mifepristone and misoprostol products <u>issued prior to October 1</u> shall expire six months after the date of issue. Originally authorized refills remaining on such prescriptions shall comply with the limitations applicable to Schedule IV products: the first five refills may be dispensed within the six months following the date of issue. In the event more than five refills were originally authorized, or in the event there are any refills remaining six months after the date of issue, all such refills shall be automatically voided.
- Prescriptions for mifepristone and misoprostol products *issued on or after October 1* shall comply with the usual limitations applicable to Schedule IV products.
- Effective October 1, pharmacies and other dispensers of mifepristone and misoprostol prescriptions
 will be required to report their eligible prescription transactions to the Louisiana Prescription
 Monitoring Program (PMP) due to the scheduling action. We encourage you to check with your
 pharmacy information system vendor to ensure the correct controlled substance coding of
 mifepristone and misoprostol drug products in the master drug file of your information system.