

RULE

Department of Health Board of Pharmacy

Prescription Drug Delivery (LAC 46:LIII.2501)

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (R.S. 49:950 et seq.) and the Pharmacy Practice Act (R.S. 37:1161 et seq.), the Board of Pharmacy amended Section 2501 of its rules to address delivery of prescription drugs to patients. The Rule changes add Section 2501.A.4, requiring pharmacies to implement safeguards to protect medication integrity when delivering prescriptions to patients or their authorized agents. These changes address standards, notification, packaging, and temperature control for prescription drug delivery, as well as possession and control of the prescription drug whether the pharmacy uses a common or contract carrier or a pharmacy employee. The Rule changes also require pharmacies to replace any prescription drug that is compromised in any way during delivery. This Rule is hereby adopted on the day of promulgation.

Title 46

PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS

Part LIII. Pharmacists

Chapter 25. Prescriptions, Drugs, and Devices

Subchapter A. General Requirements

§2501. Prescription Drugs and Devices

A. - A.3.b. ...

4. Delivery. To complete the dispensing process, pharmacies may deliver prepared prescriptions to the patient or their authorized agent upon request, using a common carrier, contract carrier, or pharmacy employee. Proper safeguards shall be in place to ensure the integrity of the medication—preserving its safety, identity, strength, quality, and purity throughout the delivery process. The pharmacy is responsible for the safe and accurate delivery of prescription drugs and remains accountable for any issues that may arise during the process.

a. Standards. The pharmacy shall ensure that all prescription drugs are delivered to the patient or their authorized agent in compliance with nationally recognized standards, including those established by the manufacturer or the United States Pharmacopeia (USP).

b. Notification. The pharmacy shall notify the patient or their authorized agent of the delivery.

c. Packaging. Prescription drugs delivered by a common or contract carrier shall be enclosed in tamper-evident packaging.

d. Temperature Control. Throughout the delivery process, until the medication is received by the patient or their authorized agent, prescription drugs shall be maintained within the temperature range specified by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) or as recommended by the manufacturer, with allowances for permitted excursions.

e. Possession and Control. When a pharmacy relinquishes physical possession and control of a prescription drug during delivery, the drug shall not be returned to the pharmacy for reuse.

i. Common or Contract Carrier. If there is no formal agreement in place with a common or contract carrier that ensures delivery integrity standards and grants the pharmacy control during transit, prescription drugs shall not be returned to the pharmacy for reuse.

ii. Pharmacy Employee. When a pharmacy employee delivers a prescription drug, the pharmacy retains physical possession and control of the medication throughout the delivery process.

f. Compromised Product. If it is determined a prescription drug is in any way compromised during delivery, the pharmacy shall replace the drug or arrange for the drug to be replaced, either by promptly delivering a replacement to the patient or by promptly contacting the prescriber to arrange for the drug to be dispensed to the patient by a pharmacy of the patient's or their agent's choice.

B. - E.3. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:1182.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Pharmacy, LR 14:708 (October 1988), effective January 1, 1989, amended LR 29:2101 (October 2003), effective January 1, 2004, LR 50:1156 (August 2024), LR 52:353 (March 2026).

M. Joseph Fontenot Jr.
Executive Director

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