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.   Prescription Drugs or Devices. A prescription drug or device is a medication or mechanism that may only be dispensed by a pharmacist on the order of a licensed practitioner and shall bear the "Rx Only" notation or any other designation of similar import required by law on the label of a commercial container.

      1.   Dispensing. Prescription drugs or devices shall be dispensed only by a Louisiana-licensed pharmacist.

      2.   Possession. Prescription drugs or devices shall be procured and possessed in the course of the practice of pharmacy by a permitted pharmacy.

      3.   Storage

         a.   Prescription drugs or devices shall be stored in a permitted pharmacy under the immediate control and responsibility of a pharmacist.

         b.   All areas where drugs are stored shall be maintained under environmental conditions which will ensure the integrity of the drug, as specified by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) and/or manufacturer's or distributor's product information or labeling.

      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. In the absence of a formal agreement with a common or contract carrier granting the pharmacy control during transit, the prescription drug shall not be returned to the pharmacy for reuse.

38   ii.   Pharmacy Employee. When a pharmacy employee delivers a prescription drug, the pharmacy retains

39   physical possession and control of the medication throughout the delivery process.

40   f.   Compromised Product. If a pharmacist determines a prescription drug is in any way compromised during

41   delivery, the pharmacy shall replace the drug or arrange for the drug to be replaced, either by promptly delivering a

42   replacement to the patient or by promptly contacting the prescriber to arrange for the drug to be dispensed to the

43   patient by a pharmacy of the patient's or their agent's choice.

44   B. – E.3.   …

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

46   HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Pharmacy, LR 14:708 (October

47   1988), effective January 1, 1989, amended LR 29:2101 (October 2003), effective January 1, 2004, amended LR 50:1156 (August

48   2024), amended LR

49