



Pharmacy Changes to Prescriptions



August 23, 2022

Prior to November 2007, if an incomplete controlled substance prescription arrived at a pharmacy, a pharmacist could contact the prescriber by and make limited changes to make the prescription legal for dispensing. The pharmacist had to date and document the changes on the prescription.

The DEA's preamble to a new rule in November 2007 changed this and stated that pharmacists could no longer make changes to Schedule II prescriptions. The DEA stated they are in the process of amending this rule. In the meantime there has been information causing confusion. On April 19th, 2010, DEA recently stated that while they are amending their existing rule, they will allow practitioners to make changes to controlled substance prescriptions according to the laws and policies of their individual state.

The Missouri Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs conjointly with the Missouri Board of Pharmacy are informing Missouri practitioners to return to the standard of practice prior to November 2007, until such time that the DEA has promulgated a new rule.

In August 2022, the DEA changed and reversed this policy and stated that pharmacists could not make any changes to controlled substance prescriptions. The BNDD published this change on August 2, 2022. On August 22, 2022, the BNDD received additional and new information from the DEA. The DEA is authorizing states to revert to their older previous policies where pharmacies can contact prescribers and make certain changes to prescriptions. So the state policy originally implemented in 2010 is in effect until further notice.

Until the new DEA rule is effective, Missouri practitioners shall adhere to the following guidelines:

Methods of changing prescriptions:

1. A prescriber may provide a change to the pharmacy that the pharmacy must attach to the original prescription. The written change shall document the date and name of the person authorizing the change. The change may be electronic, mailed, emailed, or faxed.
2. The change may be communicated orally. The pharmacy shall record the date, changes, and person authorizing the changes on the front or back of the prescription. This may happen if the prescriber has a waiver from the mandated electronic prescribing.

What may be changed/added with permission

Date written
Patient's address (*complete physical address, not P.O. Box*)
Drug form
Drug strength
Quantity to be dispensed
Prescriber's address
Prescriber's DEA number
Directions for use
Substitutions permitted
Refill information
Reasons for extended supplies for Schedule II prescriptions

What can never be changed/added

Patient's name
Drug name
Prescriber's name
Prescriber's signature

What is not a change to the prescription: BNDD does not consider it a change to the prescription if the pharmacy documents dispensing notes and information on a prescription. These are notes such as adding an NPI number, or determining morphine equivalents (MME), or adding a phone number.