

Rx News Bulletin

Bureau of Narcotics & Dangerous Drugs

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

health.mo.gov/safety/bnnd/index.php

DEA No Longer Requires “X” Waiver for Opiate Abuse Disorder Prescriptions

Previously, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) would authorize certain practitioners to prescribe buprenorphine products for the treatment of opiate abuse disorder. The DEA required practitioners to obtain additional training and then the DEA would add an “X” to their DEA number.

The DEA has ended this practice. Now all authorized practitioners are allowed to treat opiate abuse disorder within their scope of practice and the “X” waiver is no longer required.

In Missouri, mid-level practitioners are still authorized to prescribe a 30-day supply of buprenorphine to treat opioid abuse disorder. If the mid-level’s prescription was for the treatment of pain, they would be limited to a 5-day supply.

The Missouri Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs does not have any state-level regulations regarding the “X” waiver so practitioners may follow the new federal guidelines.

New BNDD Regulations in Effect Impacting Applications for Registrations

The Missouri Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (BNDD) receives and processes approximately 35,000 applications per year. Ninety-five percent of these are received electronically through our online application database. This allows the bureau to process these applications usually within one business day and operate paperless. This avoids the mail, fee receipt office, data entry, and archiving. The bureau receives about 5% of its applications each year on paper.

Effective March 1, 2023, the BNDD regulations have been updated to require all applications to be submitted electronically online. The amended regulation is 19 CSR 30-1.017. This will allow the bureau to operate more effectively and efficiently, and save costs on the paper applications. It is consistent with electronic medical records going electronic, the mandatory electronic prescribing of controlled substances and the DEA is moving to a required online application process.

BNDD Online Loss Reporting System to Change URL Reporting Site

The Missouri Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs has a link on its [website](#) to report losses, thefts and diversions. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is upgrading security in this database and others. The link and URL for this reporting site will change slightly. The bureau is arranging that anyone visiting our loss reporting link be re-directed to the new URL site. If you have this loss reporting site saved as a favorite on your computer, please save the new URL site as a favorite.

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Drug Shortages Can Exempt Electronic Prescribing Requirement

BNDD has received reports of physicians who are electronically prescribing amphetamine and dextroamphetamine products. The patients learn there is a shortage right now and this causes physicians to cancel the first prescription and then issue new prescriptions until a different pharmacy can be found that has the drug in supply.

Due to the shortage, the physicians may choose to issue a written prescription. Physicians are covered under an exemption in Section 195.550.1(1) & (11), RSMo which states:

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or any other law to the contrary, beginning January 1, 2021, no person shall issue any prescription in this state for any Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substance unless the prescription is made by electronic prescription from the person issuing the prescription to a pharmacy, except for prescriptions:
 - (10) Issued by a practitioner under circumstances where, notwithstanding the practitioner's present ability to make an electronic prescription as required by this subsection, such practitioner reasonably determines that it would be impractical for the patient to obtain substances prescribed by electronic prescription in a timely manner, and such delay would adversely impact the patient's medical condition; or
 - (11) Issued where the patient specifically requests a written prescription.

DEA National Drug Take-Back Day—April 22, 2023



The DEA has announced their next national take-back day is Saturday, April 22, 2023 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Law enforcement agencies are authorized to collect unwanted medications for disposal. Additional information can be obtained [here](#).

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Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, 920 Wildwood Drive, PO Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102; (573) 751-6321; (573) 751-2569 fax; bndd@health.mo.gov; health.mo.gov/safety/bndd/index.php

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