

PractitionerUpdate

New York State Department of Health

Spring 2008

Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement

Reporting Lost or Stolen Official New York State Prescriptions

Practitioners are required to immediately notify the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement of the loss, destruction, theft or unauthorized use of any official prescriptions issued to them, as well as the failure to receive official prescriptions within a reasonable time after ordering them. The notification form required for reporting this information can be obtained by telephoning the Bureau or accessing the Bureau's website as listed below. Because the serial numbers of reported lost or stolen official prescriptions are posted on the Bureau's website for reference by pharmacists, practitioners should also notify the Bureau if the reported prescriptions are ultimately found.



Practitioner Notification Program

Patients who obtain controlled substances from multiple practitioners may be diverting drugs for abuse or illicit sale. Under its Practitioner Notification Program, the Bureau informs practitioners when an analysis of prescription information submitted by pharmacies indicates that a patient is obtaining controlled substances from multiple practitioners within a short period of time. The confidential notifications include a drug utilization review (DUR) and information for the practitioner on accessing rehabilitation treatment for the patient, if deemed necessary. The notifications also include an office poster alerting patients of their requirement under the Public Health Law to inform a practitioner if they are receiving controlled substances from another practitioner.

The Practitioner Notification Program has been well received by the medical community. Since this public health initiative began in January 2007, the Program has sent out DURs to more than 5,900 practitioners. The drugs identified as being most sought after are hydrocodone, oxycodone, alprazolam, zolpidem, and hydromorphone. It is important to note that similar notification programs in other states have reduced this method of drug-seeking activity by up to 65%, allowing practitioners more time to devote to legitimate patient care.

If you become aware that a patient may be obtaining controlled substances from multiple practitioners, you may contact the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services at 800-522-5353 or the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement as listed below.

Practitioner Use of Institution Prescriptions

Institution official New York State prescription forms are available for use by staff practitioners in hospitals, clinics and residential healthcare facilities. Practitioners are required to use such forms when prescribing for outpatient use. In addition to information required by the controlled substance law and regulations, institution official prescriptions must also contain the practitioner's stamped or typed name and his or her personal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration number. Only unlicensed interns, residents, and foreign physicians may prescribe under a hospital's DEA registration, provided they are authorized by the hospital to do so and are assigned a suffix that must be indicated on the prescription.



**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT**

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www.nyhealth.gov/professionals/narcotic