

QuickLink

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Triplicate law provisions phase in . . .

SB 151, which was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor last year, went into effect on January 1 of this year, but various provisions are phased in during 2004. Some became effective on January 1, 2004; some go into effect on July 1, 2004 and the remainder are triggered on January 1, 2005. The purpose of SB 151 is to balance the needs of law enforcement to prevent drug diversion with the needs of patients for appropriate pain relief. In order to meet the needs of both, SB 151:

- Eliminates the requirement for triplicate prescription forms.
- Requires new security prescription forms (not triplicates).
- Simplifies prescribing rules.
- Retains an exemption for Schedule II's for terminally ill patients.
- Makes the CURES system, an electronic monitoring system, permanent and extends it to include Schedule III drugs, which are common in drug diversion.

Effective dates

On *January 1, 2004*, all controlled substance prescriptions (including Schedule II's) became valid for six months.

On *July 1, 2004*, a number of the provisions become effective:

- A triplicate will not be required for Schedule II prescriptions, although they can be used until January 1, 2005.
- Instead, prescribers may use new security prescription forms for Schedule II prescriptions.
- Triplicate forms may no longer be ordered.
- All controlled substance prescriptions must be signed and dated by the prescriber, but other

information required on the form may be written or printed by the prescriber's agent.

- SNF, home health and hospice patients can receive Schedule II prescriptions faxed or phoned into the pharmacy serving those patients.

On *January 1, 2005*, the remaining provisions become effective:

- All written controlled substance prescriptions (Schedules II through V) must be on the new security prescription forms.
- Fax and oral prescriptions for Schedules III – V will be allowed.
- The new security prescription forms must be obtained from an approved private printer; they will no longer be obtained from the Department of Justice. A list of approved private printers can be found on the Board of Pharmacy website.
- Forms may be ordered in any quantity, in any format. They are not serialized and not in multiple-copy format, but they must have required security features including a latent void, a chemical void, thermo-chromic ink, a watermark, microprinting, preprinted prescriber information and quantity check-off boxes.

CURES

CURES is an electronic monitoring system that collects Schedule II prescription information from pharmacists that submit it in an electronic format on a monthly basis. The information is aggregated into a statewide database used by law enforcement and regulatory agencies. Beginning January 1, 2005, Schedule III drugs will be added. Prescribers and pharmacists can obtain "patient activity reports" from the Department of Justice. The request form can be found at <http://ag.ca.gov/bne/content/trips.htm>.

California Hospice & Palliative Care Association
P.O. Box 160087
Sacramento, CA 95816-0087
(916) 441-3770 ♦FAX (916) 441-4720
e-mail: hospice@inreach.com ♦website: calhospice.org