



State of Utah Department of Commerce

Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing

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The Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL) has been asked to clarify information recently printed in the Utah Pharmacists Association's (UPhA) newsletter regarding schedule II controlled substance prescriptions. On April 27, 2010, in a verbal conversation with Lynette Wingert of the Salt Lake City office of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the following information was provided regarding what changes or additions a pharmacist can make to a schedule II controlled substance prescription.

A pharmacist can not add or change a written prescription for a schedule II controlled substance for any of the following elements:

1. the date the prescription was written (even a change to the year is not permitted);
2. the patient's name;
3. the name of the controlled substance being prescribed, except for a generic substitution as noted on the prescription; or
4. the signature of the prescribing practitioner.

Any schedule II controlled substance prescription missing any of the four above elements is invalid and must be re-issued by the prescribing practitioner.

After consulting with the prescribing practitioner, a pharmacist may add to or change the following elements of a schedule II controlled substance prescription:

1. the dosage form;
2. drug strength;
3. drug quantity; and
4. directions for use.

Any change or addition must be noted on the prescription and indicated the change/addition was verified by the prescribing practitioner.

A pharmacist is permitted to make patient information changes/additions such as the patient's address and date of birth. This information should be verified by the pharmacist.

A scheduled II controlled substance prescription is not required to include the prescribing practitioner's DEA number. However, the dispensing pharmacist is ultimately responsible to ensure the prescribing practitioner has a valid DEA number prior to dispensing the medication. If the pharmacy has the prescribing practitioner's DEA number on file, the pharmacist is permitted to write the DEA number on the prescription. If the prescribing practitioner's DEA number is not on file with the pharmacy, the pharmacist must obtain that information from the prescribing practitioner and record it on the prescription. If the prescribing practitioner's number cannot be identified, the prescription cannot be filled.