



The Office of Secretary of State

MEMORANDUM

TO: Georgia Pharmacists

FROM: Georgia Board of Pharmacy

DATE: December 14, 2011

RE: Use of Security Paper for Hard Copy Prescription Drug Orders

Effective July 1, 2011, O.C.G.A. § 26-4-80.1 was signed into law requiring that certain Schedule II prescriptions must be written on Board of Pharmacy approved security paper.

O.C.G.A. § 26-4-80.1. Use of security paper for hard copy prescription drug orders.

- (a) Effective October 1, 2011, every hard copy prescription drug order for any Schedule II controlled substance written in this state by a practitioner must be written on security paper.
- (b) A pharmacist shall not fill a hard copy prescription drug order for any Schedule II controlled substance from a practitioner unless it is written on security paper, except that a pharmacist may provide emergency supplies in accordance with the board and other insurance contract requirements.
- (c) If a hard copy of an electronic data prescription drug order for any Schedule II controlled substance is given directly to the patient, the manually signed hard copy prescription drug order must be on approved security paper that meets the requirements of paragraph (38.5) of Code Section 26-4-5.
- (d) Practitioners shall employ reasonable safeguards to assure against theft or unauthorized use of security paper and shall promptly report to appropriate authorities any theft or unauthorized use.
- (e) All vendors shall have their security paper approved by the board prior to marketing or sale in this state.
- (f) The board shall create a seal of approval that confirms that security paper contains all three industry recognized characteristics required by paragraph (38.5) of Code Section 26-4-5. The seal shall be affixed to all security paper used in this state.
- (g) The board may adopt rules necessary for the administration of this Code section.
- (h) The security paper requirements in this Code section shall not apply to:
 - (1) Prescriptions that are transmitted to the pharmacy by telephone, facsimile, or electronic means; or
 - (2) Prescriptions written for inpatients of a hospital, outpatients of a hospital, residents of a

nursing home, inpatients or residents of a mental health facility, or individuals incarcerated in a local, state, or federal correctional facility when the health care practitioner authorized to write prescriptions writes the order into the patient's medical or clinical record, the order is given directly to the pharmacy, and the patient never has the opportunity to handle the written order.

HISTORY: Code 1981, § 26-4-80.1, enacted by Ga. L. 2011, p. 659, § 5/SB 36.

On December 14, 2011, the Georgia Board of Pharmacy revised its policy regarding the Board's seal for tamper resistant prescription paper to use the language found in the state law regarding prescription pads:

Georgia State Board of Pharmacy
Policy on Approval of Security Paper for Prescription Pads or Paper
Amended on 12-14-2011

All vendors, which produce security paper used in the printing or creation of pads of prescriptions to be used in this state, and which security paper contains all of the following criteria will be deemed to be an approved vendor by the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy:(1) One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form;

(2) One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription form by the practitioner; and

(3) One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms.

By meeting all of the criteria identified above, a vendor may market and sell security paper for use in the production of prescriptions and prescription pads in this state provided the vendor notifies the Board in writing and provides the Board a copy of the product. If the Board determines that the paper submitted does not meet the requirements listed above, the Board will notify the vendor in writing. The Board will maintain a list of approved vendors.

All approved security paper shall have the Board's seal of approval affixed to the paper. The Board's seal of approval, as shown below, will be ½ inch in diameter, with the text in the seal being Georgia font, with the Rx within the circle being a size of 9 pt, with the text "GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY" within the circle capitalized with a size of 4 pt, and the text "SEAL OF APPROVAL" underneath the Rx with a size of 3 pt and capitalized.

The seal as shown below is the official seal:



Where security paper is in the form of a prescription pad, each pad shall bear an identifying lot number, and each piece of paper in the pad shall be numbered sequentially beginning with the number one.

The security paper requirements shall not apply to:

- (1) Prescriptions that are transmitted to the pharmacy by telephone, facsimile, or electronic means; or
- (2) Prescriptions written for inpatients of a hospital, outpatients of a hospital, residents of a nursing home, inpatients or residents of a mental health facility, or individuals incarcerated in a local, state, or federal correctional facility when the health care practitioner authorized to write prescriptions writes the order into the patient's medical or clinical record, the order is given directly to the pharmacy, and the patient never has the opportunity to handle the written order.

In the event a prescription pad containing the Board seal, sequential numbering, and lot number is not available for the prescription or prescription paper containing the Board seal is not available for the prescription, and a medical health emergency exists, a prescription may be issued on paper meeting the requirements for approval for an amount of medication to cover not more than 30 days. The prescription must contain a statement that an emergency exists. All providers must have the board-approved security paper by March 31, 2012. This exception for emergencies only applies to prescriptions written before March 31, 2012.