

ATTENTION:

New California Law Impacts How You Prescribe Controlled Substances For Pain Relief

People who experience acute or chronic pain have a right to effective pain relief. You can help your patients get the pain medication they need by understanding the new law (enacted by the passage of SB 151 in 2003) and what it means for you and your practice.

What's New	Why It's Easier for You
❖ Triplicates eliminated for Schedule II drugs as of July, 2004 (triplicates may be used through 2004, but no new ones can be ordered.)	❖ No more multi-copied, serialized forms to track.
❖ New security prescription forms required for all written controlled substances (II-V). January, 2005. These forms may be used to prescribe Schedule II drugs, as of July, 2004	❖ May use new security prescription forms to prescribe all drugs. Forms can be ordered in any quantity.
❖ All controlled substance prescriptions must be signed and dated by the prescriber. Other information may be filled in by the prescriber's agent as of July, 2004.	❖ Less writing for the prescriber. Same requirement for all scheduled drugs.
❖ All controlled substance prescriptions are valid for six months.	❖ No more 14-day limit for Schedule IIs. More convenience for prescribers and patients.
❖ Fax and oral prescriptions allowed for Schedule III-V drugs. Faxed and oral prescriptions allowed for Schedule II drugs if patient is served by a home care agency or a hospice.	❖ Increased ability to meet needs of people in pain when needs change suddenly.
❖ Prescriber need only sign and date Schedule II prescriptions for terminally ill patients.	❖ Terminal Illness Exemption 11159.2. retained. May continue to use normal prescription forms for Schedule II prescriptions for terminally ill patients.
❖ CURES (Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System); physician dispensing of IIs and IIIs added to CURES.	❖ Electronic monitoring allows for more efficient identification of potential diversion or abuse of IIs and IIIs

The Northern California Pain Initiative (NCPI) is committed to promoting the right of all people to control their pain and maximize their quality of life. NCPI is a project of:



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A Checklist for Prescribers

- ✓ Log on to the Board of Pharmacy Web site (www.pharmacy.ca.gov/app-sec-printers.html) to get a list of approved printing firms.
- ✓ Select a printing firm and work with them to develop your customized controlled substance prescriptions forms. Old triplicate forms may be used until December 31, 2004, and no special form is required for written III-V orders. On January 1, 2005, all written controlled-substance prescriptions (Schedule II-V) must be on these new security prescription forms.
- ✓ Make sure staff know that as of January 1, 2005, Schedule III prescription (not just Schedule II as in the past) information will be added to the CURES system, as will physician dispensing of both IIs and IIIs. The new law makes this filing system permanent.
- ✓ Inform prescribers on your staff that they can obtain "Patient Activity Reports" from the California Department of Justice by written request. Request forms can be found at: www.ag.ca.gov/bne/content/trips.htm.
- ✓ For more information about pain policy and law, go to Pain Policy Study Group at: www.medsch.wisc.edu/painpolicy, American Academy of Pain Medicine at www.painmed.org and Pain and the Law at www.painandthelaw.org.