



State Boards of Pharmacy Guidance Related to COVID-19

April 6, 2020

Alabama

Effective March 14, 2020 through the termination of the State of Emergency relative to COVID-19, the Alabama Board of Pharmacy will authorize pharmacists to process emergency prescription refills for a 30-day supply of maintenance medications under certain requirements ([link](#)).

Implemented several provisions (through termination of State of Emergency) for pharmacists caring for patients in institutionalized settings, including remote order verification from a location outside of the institutional facility ([link](#)).

Alaska

The Alaska Board of Pharmacy passed new regulations around emergency preparedness in 2019, ensuring that pharmacies have clear steps available for dispensing prescriptions in the event of a declared emergency. Pharmacists should follow these regulations now that an emergency has been declared by the governor ([link](#)).

Arizona

Released a FAQ document on Board of Pharmacy statutes and rules that also includes various state resources and additional information. Also established a COVID-19 task force ([link](#)).

Arkansas

The Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy and the Arkansas Pharmacists Association recommend voluntary suspension of all non-emergency or non-urgent care or services to patients through April 3, 2020, or longer depending on the severity of the pandemic in the state ([link](#)).

FAQ document ([link](#)).

Released new Recommendations Concerning Potential Compounding Garb Shortages ([link](#)).

California

Authorized several waivers of specific provisions of the state's pharmacy laws including: Sterile Compounding Renewal Requirements for Facilities Located within a Hospital; Prohibited Acts involving Dangerous Drugs or Devices; Staffing Ratio of Pharmacists to Intern Pharmacists; Remote Processing Provisions; Signature Requirement for Receipt of Delivery of Drugs; Prescriber Dispensing Medication to Emergency Room Patient; Requirement for Consulting Pharmacist to Make Quarterly Visits to Clinic; and Requirements Related to Use of Personal Protective Equipment ([link](#)).

Colorado

No guidance currently.

Connecticut

No guidance currently.

Delaware

No guidance currently.

District of Columbia

No guidance currently.

Florida

In Florida, under the State of Emergency, a pharmacist, in his or her professional judgment, may be able to refill prescriptions early. In accordance with Florida Statutes, pharmacists may dispense up to a 30-day supply of maintenance medication for a chronic condition under certain conditions ([link](#)).

Georgia

The Georgia Board of Pharmacy adopted an emergency policy and statement of interpretation in response to COVID-19 to enable pharmacists and pharmacies to assist in the management and containment of a public emergency within the confines of a regulatory framework that serves to protect the welfare and health of the public. The policy specifically addresses emergency refill dispensing of prescription drugs (excluding controlled substances), temporary recognition of non-

resident licensure, and temporary pharmacy facilities. For more information, please review the policy below. Applicants interested in temporary licensure and registration should also review the attached materials ([link](#)).

Promulgated emergency rules regarding mail delivery of prescriptions and remote order verification for retail pharmacy permits ([link](#)).

Issued guidance permitting pharmacists to dispense a one-time 90-day supply of a prescription when the patient has no remaining refills and the prescribing practitioner cannot be reached to obtain authorization ([link](#)).

Hawaii

No guidance currently.

Idaho

The Idaho Board of Pharmacy has released and continually updated a FAQ document on emergency pharmacy provisions ([link](#)).

Illinois

No guidance currently.

Indiana

The number of pharmacist technicians each pharmacist can oversee has increased from 6 to 8. Pharmacists may give a one-time 90-day refill of a non-controlled substance prescribed as a maintenance medication ([link](#)).

The Board of Pharmacy recommends using extreme caution in filling new prescriptions for chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, and azithromycin to ensure no shortages occur ([link](#)).

Iowa

The Iowa Board of Pharmacy issued guidance detailing its intention to “exercise risk-based enforcement discretion” for non-compliance with rules related to the practice of pharmacy for the time period established by the governor’s emergency declaration ([link](#)).

Also issued a detailed FAQ document ([link](#)).

Kansas

The Kansas Board of Pharmacy has issued an informational bulletin on various provisions of the state's pharmacy regulations implicated by the ongoing situation ([link](#)), as well as a FAQ documents specific to pharmacy practice ([link](#)).

Kentucky

The Kentucky Board of Pharmacy has issued modifications to two pharmacy regulations: allowing pharmacists to practice remotely providing the on-site pharmacy has a pharmacy software system with a closed network and a pharmacist present to conduct the final verification and in-person counseling to their patients; and encouraging pharmacies to practice social distancing through drive-thru or curbside pickup, mail order, or home delivery of prescriptions ([link](#)).

Also released a pharmacy practice FAQ document ([link](#)).

Louisiana

The Louisiana Board of Pharmacy has issued several guidance documents, related to topics including: pharmacy-to-pharmacy transfers of drug stock, remote processing by pharmacy personnel, and prescription dispensing, compounding of sterile preparations, remote access to medical orders, and board operations ([link](#)).

Maine

No guidance currently.

Maryland

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy issued a memorandum on various pharmacy practices under the declared state of emergency, with specific information on remote processing, refills, sterile compounding, and licensing ([link](#)).

The Board also issued guidance encouraging to pharmacists to decline to fill a prescription they deem medically inappropriate, especially prescriptions of chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, and azithromycin ([link](#)).

Minnesota

The Minnesota Board of Pharmacy has issued and continually updates a pharmacy practice FAQ document ([link](#)).

Missouri

The Missouri Board of Pharmacy has issued several proposed regulation changes on topics including pharmacy technician and intern pharmacist supervision; remote data entry; and non-dispensing activities ([link](#)).

Made changes to the early refill policy, allowing refills at 50%, down from 85%, for controlled and non-controlled substances ([link](#)).

The State is allowing pharmacists and pharmacy technicians licensed in other states to assist Missouri-licensed pharmacies during the public health emergency ([link](#)).

Also held a webinar to provide additional information ([link](#)).

Montana

The Montana Board of Pharmacy has posted links to relevant pharmacy regulations and additional information ([link](#)).

Nebraska

No guidance currently.

Nevada

The Nevada Board of Pharmacy has issued several guidance documents for pharmacy practice on topics including remote order entry, sterile compounding to reuse certain PPE, temporarily authorizing the compounding and sale of hand sanitizer, temporarily authorizing pharmacy personnel to perform testing, waiving the number of pharmacy technicians in training a pharmacist can supervise, and on the authority of a pharmacist to dispense refills of “dangerous drugs” without a written or verbal order from a health care provider ([link](#)).

New Hampshire

The New Hampshire Board of Pharmacy has issued emergency rules including allowing for the dispensing of 90 day supplies for maintenance medications and extending the timeframe in which pharmacists need to be CPR certified in order to administer vaccines ([link](#)).

New Jersey

The New Jersey Board of Pharmacy has issued several waivers including: reuse of PPE in compounding; changes in pharmacy hours of operation; relaxed requirements to capture counseling signatures at POS; extended closure of a

pharmacy; early refills or dispensing of up to a 90 day supply; and relaxed requirements for delivery protocols ([link](#)).

New Mexico

The New Mexico Board of Pharmacy has issued an emergency dispensing declaration allowing a pharmacist to dispense up to a 30-day supply of certain medications if they cannot get obtain an authorized prescription ([link](#)).

The Board issued guidance stating its intention not to take actions against licensees in non-compliance with visitation schedules for consultant pharmacist inspections of certain clinic types ([link](#)).

The Board also issued guidance on sterile compounding garb and PPE ([link](#)) as well as dear colleague letter on inappropriate prescribing and stockpiling of potential COVID-19 treatment drugs ([link](#)).

New York

The New York State Board of Pharmacy has issued an advisory notice on the illegality of automated dispensing machines that store and provide prescription drugs for sale to customers outside of their respective registered pharmacy areas ([link](#)).

North Carolina

The North Carolina Board of Pharmacy expanded its emergency services waiver to authorize the use of certain remote operations ([link](#)). The BoP original emergency waiver is in effect as a result of the declaration of emergency ([link](#)).

The Board has created a pathway for the temporary reactivation of certain pharmacist licenses during the emergency ([link](#)).

The Board has passed an emergency rule creating a list of “restricted drugs” directing pharmacists to fill or refill a prescription for a Restricted Drug only if that prescription bears a written diagnosis from the prescriber. If the diagnosis is COVID-19, a pharmacist may dispense no more than a 14-day supply. Pharmacists shall not dispense a restricted drug for the prevention, or in anticipation of the contraction of COVID-19 ([link](#)).

North Dakota

No guidance currently.

Ohio

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy has taken numerous actions including: issuing an emergency rule on dispensing of hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine ([link](#)); a temporary expansion of pharmacy technician duties ([link](#)); a temporary expansion of the maximum days' supply for multiple doses in single-dose containers ([link](#)); extension of pharmacy technician renewal and technician trainee extensions ([link](#)); authorization for pharmacists and technicians licensed in other states to practice in Ohio ([link](#)); guidance on dispensing emergency refills without a prescription ([link](#)); guidance on compounding drugs in shortage ([link](#)); guidance on extension of emergency refills ([link](#)); guidance on the reuse of PPE in compounding activities ([link](#)); guidance on expedited licensure of drug distributors ([link](#)); and guidance on remote processing ([link](#)).

Oklahoma

No guidance currently.

Oregon

The Oregon Board of Pharmacy has issued a temporary emergency rule prohibiting the dispensing of hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine for presumptive treatment or prevention of COVID-19 ([link](#)).

The Board has also provided and continually updates a resource document including references to various regulations impacted by the state of emergency, a statement on the inappropriate prescribing of hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine to treat COVID-19, updates on licensing requirements, emergency licensing and conservation of PPE, and allowing for delivery or mail order at any time ([link](#)).

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Board of Pharmacy has issued a suggestion that pharmacists verify a positive test for COVID-19 before dispensing hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine ([link](#)).

Rhode Island

No guidance currently.

South Carolina

The South Carolina Board of Pharmacy authorized pharmacists to dispense one time early refills of schedule III-V prescriptions due within the next 7 days. The

Board also authorizes emergency dispensing of controlled substances upon receiving oral authorization from a provider under certain conditions ([link](#)).

The Board, jointly with the Board of Medical Examiners, issued guidance on prescribing and dispensing hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine and azithromycin, including physicians not prescribing for themselves or their families without an actual COVID-19 diagnosis, including a diagnosis on prescriptions for these drugs, considering the potential shortage for inappropriate and prophylactic prescribing, and stating that pharmacists should use their professional judgment in dispensing these drug ([link](#)).

The Board issued several emergency orders including allowing for remote order entry ([link](#)), providing for the temporary authorization of use of automated pharmacy pickup kiosks ([link](#)), and establishing safe harbors for use and reuse of certain PPE ([link](#)).

South Dakota

The Board of Pharmacy has issued guidance for pharmacy personnel related to COVID-19 ([link](#)).

The Board has implemented restrictions on when chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, mefloquine, and azithromycin can be prescribed and limiting new prescriptions to 14-day supplies ([link](#)).

State regulations have been updated to reflect temporary rules related to COVID-19, including temporary easing of licensure requirements, easing of supervisory restrictions, and allowing pharmacists licensed in other states to practice in South Dakota ([link](#)).

State and federal guidance is posted on the landing page of the Board's website as it becomes available ([link](#)).

Tennessee

The Tennessee Board of Pharmacy released a preparation checklist for pharmacies ([link](#)).

Texas

The Texas Board of Pharmacy issued two emergency rules: prohibiting the dispensing of prescriptions for chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, mefloquine, or

azithromycin unless there is a written diagnosis consistent with evidence for its use, limiting supplies to 14-days unless the patient was previously established on the drug, and prohibiting refills without a new prescription ([link](#)); and allowing a pharmacist to dispense up to 30-day emergency refills when a prescriber cannot be reached ([link](#)).

Utah

No guidance currently.

Vermont

The Vermont Board of Pharmacy issued emergency guidance on several pharmacy practice topics including allowing refill adjustments up to 90-days, allowing for remote consultation even when there is not preexisting relationship between prescriber and patient, compounding hand sanitizer, and conservation of PPE ([link](#)).

Virginia

The Virginia Board of Pharmacy issued emergency guidance and provisions on several pharmacy practice topics including dispensing of early refills, compounding hand sanitizer, conserving garb, central/remote processing from pharmacists and pharmacy technicians licensed in other states, and emergency purchase of drugs from another pharmacy ([link](#)).

Washington

No guidance currently.

West Virginia

The West Virginia Board of Pharmacy issued several waivers including permitting remote processing of prescriptions, waiving signature requirements for certain drugs, early refills temporary permits for out-of-state license holders, and conserving PPE for compounding ([link](#)).

Issued a temporary rule prohibiting the dispensing of prescriptions for chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine unless there is a written diagnosis evidence for its use, limiting supplies to 30-days unless the patient was previously established on the drug, and prohibiting refills without a new prescription, unless the patient is already established on the drug ([link](#)).

Issued Guidance to pharmacies on infection control procedures and strategies to limit interaction ([link](#)).

Wisconsin

No guidance currently.

Wyoming

The Wyoming Board of Pharmacy released an FAQ document ([link](#)).