

Rule 480-22-0.39-.16 Emergency Schedule II Prescription Drug Order.

(1) As a response to the current state of emergency as declared by the Governor, the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy finds the potential for imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare of Georgia citizens. This emergency rule shall go into effect based on O.C.G.A. 50-13-4(b) and shall be effective for the duration of the emergency or a period of not more than 120 days, whichever is shorter. During the time this rule is effective, it shall replace Georgia State Board of Pharmacy Rule 480-22-.04(3) only, the remainder of 480-22-.04 shall remain unaltered and in full effect.

(2) In the case of an emergency situation, a pharmacist may dispense a schedule II (C-II) controlled substance only upon receiving oral authorization of the prescribing practitioner. For purposes of this paragraph, an emergency situation means a situation in which the prescribing practitioner determines that immediate administration of a schedule II (C-II) controlled drug is necessary, there is no appropriate alternative treatment or drug in a schedule less than CII, and it is not reasonably possible for the practitioner to provide a written prescription drug order for the pharmacist dispensing the drug prior to issuance. Such emergency prescription drug order is permissible provided that:

(a) The quantity prescribed and dispensed is limited to the amount adequate to treat the patient during the emergency period. Dispensing beyond the emergency period must be pursuant to an additional written prescription drug order signed by the prescribing practitioner;

(b) The prescription drug order shall be immediately reduced to writing by the pharmacist or pharmacy intern/extern working under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist and shall contain all information required in Rule 480-22-.03, except for the signature of the prescribing practitioner;

(c) If the prescribing practitioner is not known to the pharmacist, the pharmacist must make reasonable effort to determine that the oral authorization came from a licensed practitioner, such effort may include a callback to the prescribing individual using his or her telephone number and/or other good faith efforts to insure the practitioner's identity; and

(d) Within 15 days after authorizing an emergency oral prescription drug order, the prescribing practitioner shall cause a written prescription drug order to be delivered to the dispensing pharmacist for the emergency quantity prescribed via one of the permissible means listed below. In addition to conforming to the requirements of Rule 480-22-.03, the prescription shall have written on its face "Authorization for Emergency Dispensing," and the date of the oral emergency order.

1. The permissible delivery methods include:

- i. Delivery by mail - must be postmarked within the 15 day period;
- ii. Facsimile; or
- iii. Photograph or digital scan of the written follow-up prescription drug order sent to pharmacy in place of paper prescription.

2. Upon receipt, the dispensing pharmacist shall attach this prescription drug order to the emergency oral prescription drug order, which had earlier been reduced to writing. The pharmacist shall notify the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency, if the prescribing practitioner fails to provide a written emergency prescription drug order to the dispensing pharmacist.

Authority O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(b)