

GSA Alert – Pharmacy Board Extends Security Paper Deadline

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The Georgia Board of Pharmacy has “voted to extend the time period vendors and users have to begin using the (new) required security paper (for Schedule II controlled substance prescriptions) until June 30, 2012.”

The Board stresses that nothing in the policy does restricts who can write the “Medical Emergency Need” statement on a prescription. Also, if “the prescription pad containing the Board seal, sequential numbering, and lot number is not available for the prescription or prescription paper containing the Board seal... and a medical health emergency exists... prescription may be issued on paper meeting the requirements for approval for an amount of medication to cover not more than 30 days.” The Board states “the prescription must contain a statement that an emergency exists.” All providers must have the board-approved security paper by June 30, 2012. The exception for emergencies only applies to prescriptions written before July 1, 2012.

Please note the following:

- The requirement applies specifically to the Schedule II prescription forms that are physically handed to patients to prevent tampering.
- Schedule II prescriptions received by fax do not need to be on security paper – and the ‘Emergency Medical Need’ requirement does not apply to faxed prescriptions.
- The lot number/sequential numbering system requirement on security paper only applies to prescription pads – not to the sheets of security paper that are printed on a printer.
- All Schedule II prescriptions must be manually signed by the prescriber – regardless of whether they are written on security paper, non-security paper, or faxed.

If you have questions, contact GDNA Director Rick Allen at rallen@gdna.ga.gov.