



Effective January 1, 2005, the triplicate prescription form required to prescribe Schedule II medications is being replaced by a new tamper resistance prescription forms. A new California Security Prescription law will pass which requires the use of security prescription forms for all controlled substances-Schedule II, III, IV and V. A federal list of controlled substances, including the drug schedule, can be found on Drug Enforcement Administration's website at [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules).

Alteer Corporation recognizes and provides this document to summarize state compliance about how physicians prescribe controlled substances both before and after January 1, 2005, when triplicates are no longer valid and security prescription forms must be used for all controlled substances. In Alteer Office for Schedule II, the physician will need to load the "new security prescription forms" into a laser printer, print the prescription, sign it, and give it to the patient. If the print volume is "high" for a particular drug, consider having a dedicated printer loaded with the "new security prescription forms". For Schedule III, IV and V, continue to fax directly from Alteer Office to the pharmacy.

The new security prescription forms must be supplied by printing companies approved by the Department of Justice and the Board of Pharmacy and must include specific security features. On October 29, 2004, they approved RxSecurity on its list of approved security printers also sponsored by California Medical Association as a secured prescription form. RxSecurity has been printing secure tamper proof pads since 1989. More importantly, Rx's pricing is superior to most of the publicly posted pricing of other security printers approved by the state, especially for one-part (single prescription pads). CMA members receive a 15% discount. Non-CMA members will also find pricing attractive compared to other approved printers. Special pricing is also available for hospitals, clinics and other high volume purchasers.

To place an order with RxSecurity, visit [www.rxsecurity.com/cma/php](http://www.rxsecurity.com/cma/php) (non-members [www.rxsecurity.com](http://www.rxsecurity.com)) or call 1-800-66-RX-PAD. Physicians' initial order must include DEA registration and state license number. Initial orders may be filled out online or may be faxed in to 1-866-667-9723.

**Listed below are frequently asked questions regarding the new California Security Prescription Law:**

**Q When do I have to start using the security forms for Schedule III-V prescriptions:**

A Effective January 1, 2005, all written controlled substance prescriptions for Schedule III-V must be on the tamper-resistant prescription forms and use of the regular prescription forms for written prescriptions are no longer valid.

**Q Can I orally prescribe Schedule II drugs, fax or electronically send them to the pharmacy?**

A With some exceptions, prescription orders for drugs classified in Schedule II **may not** be faxed, e-mailed or orally prescribed, but must be written in the handwriting of the prescriber on the official tamper-resistant prescription form. Generally, the exception to this rule relates to prescriptions filled on an emergency basis, for a patient in a skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility or hospice patient, and if the original is presented before dispensing.

**Q Can I fax, electronically send or orally prescribe Schedule III, IV or V controlled substances?**

A Both California and federal law **allow** Schedule III, IV or V controlled substances to be prescribed orally or via fax to the pharmacist. If a prescriber's employee orally transmits the order, the prescription must specify the name of the employee of transmitted the prescription. The electronic transmitted prescription (e-mail / fax) must be produced in hard copy form, signed, and dated by the pharmacist filling the prescription.

**Q When do I have to stop using triplicates?**

A December 31, 2004 is the last day physicians may write a prescription on a triplicate form and the last day triplicate forms are valid and presentable to a pharmacist for filling.

**Q I have been offered free tamper proof pads from a company that previously gave me free pads. Are they legal for controlled substance?**

A No, not unless the prescription pads come directly from a printer approved by the state. Approved printers are listed on the Board of Pharmacy's website, [http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/consumers/security\\_printer.htm](http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/consumers/security_printer.htm) or send an e-mail to Security [Printers@dca.ca.gov](mailto:Printers@dca.ca.gov).

**Q What do I do with unused triplicate forms after January 1, 2005?**

A The law **does not** mandate a specific procedure for retiring triplicate forms. The California Department of Justice has requested that all unused triplicate prescriptions be returned to the Department of Justice Triplicate Prescription Program, 4949 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 94820 by **certified or registered** mail for destruction by the Department of Justice.

**Q Can I write prescriptions for more than one Schedule II drug on a single form? Can I use the form for all my prescriptions?**

A Yes, so long as physicians follow the rules. More than one Schedule II drug may be prescribed on a single form and the forms may be used for all prescriptions.

**Q Can I refill prescriptions for Schedule III, IV, and V controlled substances?**

A Prescriptions for Schedule III and IV controlled substances may not be refilled more than five (5) time, nor in an amount, for refills of that prescription taken together, exceeding a 120-day supply. There is no limitation on refills for Schedule V drugs.

Questions or concerns, please contact Alteer Customer Service at (949) 790-0400.

Respectfully,



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