



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
Board of Pharmacy
124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark NJ 07102



JOHN J. HOFFMAN
Acting Attorney General

STEVE C. LEE
Acting Director

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Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 45013
Newark, NJ 07101
(973) 504-6450

Guidance for Pharmacists on Making Changes to Schedule II Prescriptions

The Board has received many inquiries from pharmacists asking what types of changes, if any, can be made to hardcopy prescriptions written for Schedule II medications. The Board has compiled the below list of changes, with appropriate protocols to be followed, in order to provide direction for pharmacists when confronted with the following scenarios.

It should be noted that this document has been reviewed and approved, to be released as guidance, by the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy, the New Jersey Drug Control Unit, and the Director's office of the Division of Consumer Affairs. The Drug Enforcement Administration has had an opportunity to review this Guidance Document, however the Board has not received any formal comment from that agency.

1) **The following items may be changed upon consultation with the prescriber:**

- Patient's address
- Drug strength
- Drug quantity (both numeric and alpha representations)
- Drug dosage form
- Directions for use
- Date issued
- DEA number (if omitted)

2) **The following items may be added without consultation with the prescriber:**

- Patient's address
- Date of birth
- A notation to correct a misspelled name

3) **The following items are NEVER permitted to be changed:**

- Patient's name (other than as noted above)
- Controlled substance prescribed (except to substitute a generic)
- Prescriber's signature

General Information:

- If the hard-copy prescription is scanned into the pharmacy management system, any changes and annotations made to the hard copy should be captured on the scanned image.
- For electronic prescriptions, any changes made to the e-prescription by the pharmacist should be annotated on the electronic record.

Attached is a letter from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to Carmen Catizone, Executive Director of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. Mr. Catizone reached out to the DEA for clarification regarding DEA policy on what information a pharmacist may add to a prescription written for a schedule II medication.

The Board encourages pharmacists to review this letter for additional details of the DEA's expectations of pharmacists relating to dispensing schedule II controlled dangerous substances, and compliance with the Controlled Substance Act.

[2011 DEA Letter to Carmen Catizone of NABP](#)