State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
PO BOX 080
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0080

June 2017

Re: Reporting Suspicious Activity & Animal Prescription Guidance

Dear Pharmacist:

As you are aware, the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General continues to utilize every resource available to fight the opioid epidemic impacting our State. Pharmacists play a critical role in this fight by identifying potentially at-risk patients before it is too late.

To this end, the State has facilitated the creation of a Suspicious Activity Report for pharmacists to report a fraudulent or altered prescription or any other incident where, in the pharmacist’s professional judgment, a patient may be seeking a controlled dangerous substance, in whole or in part, for any purpose other than the treatment of an existing medical condition, such as for purposes of misuse, abuse or diversion. Pharmacists may also report patterns of prescribing by doctors deemed to be suspicious in their experience and professional judgment. You may now access the Suspicious Activity Report by visiting the Division of Consumer Affairs’ Home Page at www.njconsumeraffairs.gov and clicking the “NJPMP” link near the top of the page.

Additionally, as you know, the law requires that pharmacists and prescribers use the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program (the “NJPMP”), a powerful prescription database that enables pharmacists to review a patient’s prescription history, before dispensing potent painkillers, such as Percocet, OxyContin and various generic alternatives. Recently in the news it has been reported that some pet owners have been diverting prescription painkillers dispensed for animal use and prescribed by veterinarians. This outrageous behavior by a small minority of pet owners helped identify an opportunity for the State to enhance the effectiveness of the NJPMP. It catalyzed the creation of a uniform standard by the State Board of Pharmacy, for the entry and reporting of animal prescriptions to the NJPMP. This will allow both pharmacists and veterinarians to better monitor prescriptions written for pets, through use of the NJPMP. Enclosed please find the Board’s guidance for pharmacists regarding the labeling of prescriptions written for animals.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and your commitment to fighting prescription drug diversion and abuse in our State.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Christopher S. Porrino
Attorney General