



GUIDANCE FOR PHARMACY COMMUNITY REGARDING COVID-19

The Board of Pharmacy has been contacted by a significant number of pharmacies having issues directly related to staffing levels. Some reasons include parents being required to be home with their children during school closings, direct quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19, or by pharmacists trying to be proactive and limit their staff's exposure to the virus during this time. In addition to changing store hours, some pharmacies have consolidated services between one or more stores, have determined to be open for business behind a closed door (and providing medications to their patient's at the pharmacy door or delivering to their homes). Should pharmacies determine that they need to take advantage of a remote processing solution (which would allow some pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to work remotely rather than be present in the pharmacy), they should review the requirements as outlined in this [document](#) and supply the requested information to the Executive Director via email at rubinaccioa@dca.njoag.gov (please note that a pharmacist must be present at the brick and mortar pharmacy if any business is being conducted at that location). Once received the pharmacy's request for a temporary remote Processing Pilot will be reviewed by the Board President on an expedited basis.

Also, I would like to make one clarification to the points under "**Early refills or dispensing up to a 90 day supply of medication**" in the original guidance document. The Board is not requiring a pharmacist to consult with the physician in every case. If the pharmacist believes consultation with a physician is necessary, then he or she may do so. Remember that dispensing under either of these scenarios requires a valid prescription where the total amount of medication dispensed does not exceed the total amount of medication written for by the prescriber including any refills.

There is certainly not one solution that will address the challenges that all our pharmacies are facing. Each pharmacy should review the options and determine which action, or combination of actions, will work best for them at this point in time. The COVID-19 situation we face is very dynamic, changing without a moment's notice, which makes preparation extremely difficult. The Board is willing to assist in any way we can, so please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or issues you are encountering. Due to the high volume of emails being received, I will respond as quickly as possible.

Thank you,
Anthony

Anthony Rubinaccio, RPh
Executive Director
New Jersey Board of Pharmacy
