



The Office of Secretary of State

MEMORANDUM

TO : Georgia Pharmacists

FROM : Georgia Board of Pharmacy

DATE : September 16, 2011

Effective July 1, 2011, O.C.G.A. § 26-4-80.1 was signed into law requiring that certain Schedule II prescriptions must be written on Board of Pharmacy approved security paper.

O.C.G.A. § 26-4-80.1. Use of security paper for hard copy prescription drug orders.

- (a) Effective October 1, 2011, every hard copy prescription drug order for any Schedule II controlled substance written in this state by a practitioner must be written on security paper.
- (b) A pharmacist shall not fill a hard copy prescription drug order for any Schedule II controlled substance from a practitioner unless it is written on security paper, except that a pharmacist may provide emergency supplies in accordance with the board and other insurance contract requirements.
- (c) If a hard copy of an electronic data prescription drug order for any Schedule II controlled substance is given directly to the patient, the manually signed hard copy prescription drug order must be on approved security paper that meets the requirements of paragraph (38.5) of Code Section 26-4-5.
- (d) Practitioners shall employ reasonable safeguards to assure against theft or unauthorized use of security paper and shall promptly report to appropriate authorities any theft or unauthorized use.
- (e) All vendors shall have their security paper approved by the board prior to marketing or sale in this state.
- (f) The board shall create a seal of approval that confirms that security paper contains all three industry recognized characteristics required by paragraph (38.5) of Code Section 26-4-5. The seal shall be affixed to all security paper used in this state.
- (g) The board may adopt rules necessary for the administration of this Code section.
- (h) The security paper requirements in this Code section shall not apply to:
 - (1) Prescriptions that are transmitted to the pharmacy by telephone, facsimile, or electronic means; or
 - (2) Prescriptions written for inpatients of a hospital, outpatients of a hospital, residents of a nursing home, inpatients or residents of a mental health facility, or individuals incarcerated in a local, state, or federal correctional facility when the health care practitioner authorized to write prescriptions writes the order into the patient's medical or clinical record, the order is given directly to the pharmacy, and the patient never has the opportunity to handle the written order.

HISTORY: Code 1981, § 26-4-80.1, enacted by Ga. L. 2011, p. 659, § 5/SB 36.

On September 14, 2011, the Georgia Board of Pharmacy adopted the following policy regarding the Board's seal for tamper resistant prescription paper:

Reference OCGA 26-4-80.1

Description of SEAL: The SEAL shall contain 'GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY SEAL OF APPROVAL' all in accordance with the sample shown below.

The SEAL shall comply in all respects with the sample below, including size and format.

It shall be 1 ¾ inches in diameter with Georgia type font and size as indicated: Georgia State Board of Pharmacy Seal of Approval. In the center of the seal the symbol 'Rx' black, 16pt.

Description of SEAL: The SEAL shall contain the words GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY SEAL OF APPROVAL in accordance with the sample shown below. The SEAL shall comply in all respects with the sample below, including size and format. It shall be 1 ¾ inches in diameter with type font and size as indicated: Georgia State Board of Pharmacy Seal of Approval, Georgia font, 7 pt.; with the Symbol 'Rx' Georgia font black, 16 pt. in the center of the seal.

The seal shall appear on the bottom right hand corner of the front of the prescription paper.

SAMPLE OF SEAL



Pursuant to the law, the seal can only be used by vendors whose paper has been approved by the Board.

If a vendor requests to have their paper approved by the Board, they will need to submit a written request to the Board and provide a sample of their security paper.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may call the Board office at 478-207-2440.