

<p>California Department of Justice DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT Patrick N. Lunney, Director</p> 	<h1>INFORMATION BULLETIN</h1>	
<p><i>Subject:</i> Law Changes Directly Impacting the Prescribing and Dispensing of Schedule II and III Controlled Substances Within California</p>	<p><i>No.</i> 04-BNE-02</p> <hr/> <p><i>Date:</i> March 15, 2004</p>	<p><i>Contact for information:</i> Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement Triplicate Prescription Program (916) 227-4051</p>

TO: All Medical Prescribers, Pharmacists, Law Enforcement, and Criminal Justice Agencies

The purpose of this information bulletin is to alert law enforcement, regulatory boards, and the health care community of changes in the law that directly impact the prescribing and dispensing of Schedule II and III controlled substances within California.

Effective July 1, 2004, the Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement will no longer issue triplicate prescription forms for the prescribing of Schedule II controlled substances (Senate Bill 151 [Burton], Session 03/04).

Effective January 1, 2005, all prescriptions for Schedule II-V controlled substances shall be written on new, tamper-resistant prescription forms which must be obtained from a security vendor approved by the Board of Pharmacy and the Department of Justice. A list of approved security vendors will be available on the Board of Pharmacy Website at www.pharmacy.ca.gov.

As one process, the triplicate form is eliminated and replaced with the new process, tamper-resistant, single script prescription pads, the Department will propose the following:

Both the triplicate prescription form and the new, tamper-resistant prescription forms may be used and will be honored by pharmacies from July 1, 2004, through December 31, 2004. **On January 1, 2005, triplicate prescription forms will no longer be valid and must to be returned to the Department of Justice Triplicate Prescription Program, 4949 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95820, by certified or registered mail for destruction.**

Effective January 1, 2005, **all prescriptions for controlled substances, Schedule II-V, shall be written on new, tamper-resistant prescription forms.**

An additional mandate of this bill relates to the collection of Schedule III prescription information. Currently, all information pertaining to the prescribing of Schedule II controlled substances is

maintained in the Department of Justice Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES). Effective January 1, 2005, all Schedule III controlled substances will also be maintained in CURES as mandated by Senate Bill 151. Pharmacies will be required to submit all Schedule III controlled substance prescription information into the CURES system on a monthly basis in the same manner currently established for reporting Schedule II controlled substance prescription information.

Also available through the CURES system is the Patient Activity Report (PAR). Physicians and pharmacists may request a PAR for the prescribing and dispensing history of Schedule II and Schedule III controlled substances to patients under their care. When a PAR is requested, a copy of the information is sent to all medical prescribers who have prescribed Schedule II controlled substances for that patient and all medical prescribers prescribing Schedule III controlled substances within the last year. PARs being requested on the same patient by the same medical prescriber may only be processed once every thirty days, as the CURES system is updated on a monthly basis. Law enforcement and regulatory boards may also obtain copies of information maintained in CURES for investigative and educational purposes. In order to facilitate a request, forms are available on the Department of Justice, Attorney General's website at <http://caag.state.ca.us>. When using the Website, information is located under Criminal Justice, B.N.E., Programs, Triplicate Prescription Program.

If you require further information or have any questions, please contact the Triplicate Prescription Program at (916) 227-4051.

Sincerely,



PATRICK N. LUNNEY, Director
Division of Law Enforcement

For BILL LOCKYER
Attorney General