

New Prescribing and Reporting Rules for Controlled Substances Coming January 1, 2021

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on behalf of

Medical Board of California <subscribe@MBC.CA.GOV>

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Prescribers of controlled substances should be aware of these two upcoming requirements in state law.

[Updated Prescription Pad Security Requirements](#)

Starting January 1, 2021, pads used to write and fill prescriptions for controlled substances are required to have a 12-character serial number, a corresponding barcode, and [other security features](#) required by Assembly Bill 149.

California-approved security printers have been issuing these prescription pads since the beginning of 2020. Starting January 1, 2021, except for [limited emergency situations](#), pharmacists will be unable to fill a controlled substances prescription that is not on a compliant form.

Prescribers who do not possess these prescription pads are encouraged to place an order as soon as possible from a [Security Prescription Printer](#) approved by the Department of Justice. Doing so will help ensure you receive compliant prescription pads in a timely manner.

[Revised Reporting Requirements for Controlled Substances](#)

Beginning January 1, 2021, the dispensing of a controlled substance must be reported to the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) within one working day after the medication is released to the patient or the patient's representative. Previously, the deadline to report was seven days after dispensing.

Further, this law requires reporting the dispensing of Schedule V drugs, in addition to Schedules II, III, and IV. This requirement applies to pharmacists and prescribers who dispense controlled substances.

For more information on CURES and prescription pad requirements, visit the Board's [CURES webpage](#).

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