



COMPLIANCE CAPSULE *with*

IDFPR

Quarterly Newsletter

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

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COVID IMMUNIZATION UPDATE



Recent media coverage spotlighted Governor Pritzker's Executive Order [2025-04](#), which required the Illinois Department of Public Health to issue a state-wide standing order that any Illinois pharmacy may rely upon for authorization to provide Covid-19 vaccines if it so chooses. This past week, IDPH issued [its standing order](#) for pharmacists and other appropriate health care providers to administer Covid-19 vaccinations to eligible age groups and expand access at pharmacies and other clinical settings.

As background, the Illinois Pharmacy Practice Act has, for many years, authorized pharmacies and pharmacists to administer a variety of vaccines pursuant to a valid prescription or standing order by a physician, subject to several conditions, such as the vaccine appearing on the FDA's list of vaccines that are licensed and authorized for use (or other relevant list). See 225 ILCS 85/3(d)(4)(B). Covid vaccines remain licensed and authorized for use by the FDA (notwithstanding their removal from standard immunization schedule), and pharmacies across the State are leveraging this standing-order provision to administer Covid vaccines to the people of Illinois with a private-physician standing order. For these pharmacies, IDPH's standing order is an additional way to provide access to patients seeking a Covid-19 vaccination. We anticipate IDPH's standing order will provide particularly welcome authority for pharmacists who lack a private-physician standing order but who would like to administer Covid-19 vaccines. As further background, during the pandemic, the Illinois Pharmacy Practice Act was amended to provide a limited alternative to the requirement that any vaccination be subject to a physician's prescription or standing order—namely, for Covid-19 and influenza, the pharmacist could administer the vaccine without such physician authorization if certain conditions were met, such as compliance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices standard immunization schedule. See 225 ILCS 85/3(d)(15). Given recent ACIP changes, this provision may be of diminished value to pharmacists, thereby placing greater significance on the need for a standing order (or prescription) to administer Covid-19 vaccines. IDPH's press release discussing the standing order is available [on its website](#).

ELECTRONIC CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PRESCRIPTIONS



IDFPR has learned of pharmacies refusing to fill controlled substance prescriptions because they were not electronically submitted to the pharmacy. Be mindful of the following statute, which describes the pharmacists' exemptions and requirements when filling non-electronic prescriptions:

Per 720 ILCS 570/311.6 (e):

Any pharmacist who dispenses in good faith based upon a valid prescription that is not prescribed electronically may be exempt from any disciplinary action. A pharmacist is not required to ensure or responsible for ensuring the prescriber's compliance under subsection (b), nor may any other entity or organization require a pharmacist to ensure the prescriber's compliance with that subsection. **A pharmacist may not refuse to fill a valid prescription solely because it is not prescribed electronically.**

UPDATES & REMINDERS



Routine Inspections

IDFPR's Drug Compliance Unit has initiated unannounced routine pharmacy inspections. When a Drug Compliance Investigator arrives at the pharmacy, they will introduce themselves and provide identification. Pharmacies are required to allow the Drug Compliance Investigator access to the pharmacy to conduct the inspection per 225 ILCS 85/11 (e) which states:

The duly authorized pharmacy investigators of the Department shall have the right to enter and inspect, during business hours, any pharmacy or any other place in this State holding itself out to be a pharmacy where medicines, drugs or drug products, or proprietary medicines are sold, offered for sale, exposed for sale, or kept for sale.

Licensee Identification

Drug compliance investigators have found pharmacy employees using designations other than the required designations of pharmacist, pharmacy technician, or pharmacy student. Alternate designations may be used, but the required designations **must also be present on the nametag**.

Compounding Update

The updated versions of USP 797 and 795 became official in November 2023. Pharmacies must ensure that policies and procedures have been reviewed and updated to reflect the current edition of USP 797 and 795.

Reconstitution of Prescription Drugs

IDFPR seeks to clarify that reconstitution of conventionally manufactured nonsterile product in accordance with the directions in the manufacturer-approved labeling is not considered compounding. Per USP 797:

1.1.2 Practices not subject to the requirements in this chapter:

The following practices are not considered compounding and are not required to meet the requirements of this chapter.

Reconstitution: Reconstitution of a conventionally manufactured nonsterile product in accordance with the directions contained in the manufacturer approved labeling.

NEW LAWS SIGNED IN ILLINOIS



Governor JB Pritzker signed into law several measures passed by the Illinois General Assembly during the Spring 2025 legislative session. Measures that pertain to the pharmacy profession include:

Public Act 104-0433: Requires any student health services pharmacies to dispense contraception and medication abortion to students who wish to fill their prescriptions at the university pharmacy. **Effective August 22, 2025.**

Public Act 104-0240: Allows pharmacies to sell sterile hypodermic syringes or needles to individuals whose medication requires the use of syringes or needles for proper administration. **Effective January 1, 2026.**

Public Act 104-0252: Provides that limitations on the over-the-counter sale of ephedrine without a prescription does not apply to the sale of any product dispensed or delivered by a practitioner or pharmacy according to a prescription issued by a prescriber for a valid medical purpose and in the course of professional practice. **Effective January 1, 2026.**

Public Act 104-0312: Provides that the practice of pharmacy includes the assessment and consultation of patients and dispensing of contraceptives, including emergency contraception. Illinois Public Aid Code has also been amended to ensure the medical assistance program covers patient care services provided by a pharmacist for contraceptives. **Effective January 1, 2026.**

Public Act 104-0336: Provides that any authorized employee of an organization that provides hospice services or home health services may receive a patient's prescription orders, including controlled substances, and deliver the prescription orders to the patient. **Effective January 1, 2026.**

Public Act 104-0424: Amends the Illinois Controlled Substances Act to stipulate that a prescriber is not required to issue prescriptions electronically if the prescription is issued by a licensed veterinarian within seven years after November 17, 2023, an extension from the current two-year provision. **Effective August 15, 2025.**

CONTACT US

Have questions? Call IDFP at 1-888-473-4858.

