



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCCG

OTSG/MEDCOM Policy Memo 08-045

Expires 24 October 2010

24 OCT 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, MEDCOM Major Subordinate Commands

SUBJECT: Prescription Transfers between Army Medical Treatment Facility (MTF), Department of Defense (DoD), and Retail Network Pharmacies

1. References:

a. AR 40-3, Medical, Dental, and Veterinary Care; Chapter 11, Pharmacy and Medication Management, 22 February 2008.

b. 21 CFR. Section 1306.25, Transfer between pharmacies of prescription information for Schedule III, IV, and V controlled substances for refill purposes.

2. Purpose: To provide policy guidance on prescription transfers between Army MTF, DoD, and civilian pharmacies.

3. Proponent: The proponent for this policy is the Army Pharmacy Consultant, Ancillary Division, Health Policy and Services Directorate, Office of The Surgeon General.

4. Responsibilities:

a. The Army Pharmacy Consultant will be responsible for providing staff supervision and updating this policy, as necessary.

b. MTF Commanders will ensure that each MTF pharmacy develops and establishes a prescription transfer procedure.

5. Background:

a. Lack of consistent prescription transfer policy guidance at the MTF pharmacies has resulted in different MTF standards, patient confusion, and decreased satisfaction with pharmacy services.

b. Prescription transfers between civilian pharmacies are considered standard of practice to allow the patient flexibility and prevent disruption of medication therapy.

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c. All prescriptions, to include Schedule II medications, may be filled and dispensed at another MTF or dispensing site if they are using the same host server. This is not considered a prescription transfer for DoD pharmacies.

6. Policy:

a. For prescriptions originating at Army and other Service MTFs:

(1) Upon request from the beneficiary, Army pharmacies will transfer refills to and from Army and other Service MTF pharmacies.

(2) All prescriptions, except Schedule II medications, may be transferred and filled provided the medication is routinely available on the outpatient pharmacy formulary at the receiving facility.

(3) Prescription transfers must be communicated between two licensed pharmacists or certified pharmacy technicians provided that one of the individuals transferring or receiving the prescription is a pharmacist or as allowed by state law.

b. For prescriptions filled and dispensed by civilian pharmacies:

(1) Upon request from the beneficiary, Army pharmacies should transfer to and from civilian pharmacies.

(2) To transfer these prescriptions, Army pharmacies must follow all applicable regulations and local state Board of Pharmacy practice laws and standards.

(3) At a minimum, the transfer prescription documentation procedures outlined below must be accomplished by the pharmacist.

(4) For Category Two providers (i.e., Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants), civilian pharmacies may request the Supervisory Physician's National Provider Identifier (NPI) number to facilitate health insurance reimbursement.

7. Procedures:

a. The transferring pharmacist or designee will:

(1) Provide all required information to the receiving pharmacy to include the provider information (Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)/license/NPI) or the facility's information (DEA/NPI).

(2) Discontinue the original prescription in the pharmacy information system (CHCS) to void remaining refills.

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(3) Discontinue the original prescription and document the transaction in the CHCS prescription comment field to indicate "transfer to." Include the name of the receiving pharmacist and pharmacy, phone number, and date transferred.

b. The receiving pharmacist/designee will:

(1) Read-back the prescription information to the transferring pharmacist/designee to ensure accuracy and completeness of the prescription.

(2) Obtain all required patient, prescription and provider information.


(3) Replace the default prescription expiration date to ensure the transferred prescription expiration date is calculated based on the date of the original fill (six months for Class III-Class V medications, one year for prescription and OTC medications).

8. Prescriptions for controlled medications may only be transferred once, while prescriptions for non-controlled medications may be transferred until the prescription expiration date.

9. The originating pharmacy will transfer the prescription information for up to the number of originally authorized refills remaining on the prescription.

10. MTF pharmacies will develop a local written procedure to facilitate beneficiary prescription refill transfers that will accommodate available resources and staffing.

11. Army pharmacy personnel are expected to exercise sound professional judgment when transferring prescription refill information, ensuring patient safety, and complying with federal regulations and state laws at all times.


ERIC B. SCHOOMAKER
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Commanding