

NEWS FROM THE NYS BUREAU OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

New Security Feature Added to Official New York State Prescription Forms

The New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Controlled Substances, is adding a new security feature to the Official New York State Prescription form that will enhance the prescription's effectiveness in curtailing the diversion and abuse of controlled substances. The design of the Official Prescription form is being modified to include a test area that allows a pharmacist to verify that the prescription is authentic and not counterfeit.

The new test area is located on the face of the Official Prescription, in the upper right corner. The test area is a logo of the New York State seal encircled by the words 'PHARMACIST TEST AREA'. When rubbed with a finger, the logo's heat sensitive ink will fade from blue to clear to verify that the Official Prescription is authentic.

The Bureau of Controlled Substances expects to begin issuing Official Prescriptions containing the new 'PHARMACIST TEST AREA' by the end of 2003. At that time, all newly issued series 'K' practitioner Official Prescriptions and series 'T' institutional Official Prescriptions will contain the new security feature. Previously issued series 'I', 'J', and 'K' practitioner Official Prescriptions and series 'V' and 'T' institutional Official Prescriptions that do not contain the 'PHARMACIST TEST AREA' remain valid for prescribing and dispensing.

All Official Prescriptions that do not contain the new test area can be verified for authenticity by rubbing a finger on the words 'Standard Register' on the back of the prescription. The heat sensitive ink will fade from orange to yellow to verify that the Official Prescription is authentic.

Any Official New York State Prescription that cannot be verified as authentic through the testing of either heat sensitive ink feature should be immediately reported to the Bureau of Controlled Substances at 518-402-0707.

Human Chorionic Gonadotropin (HCG) Now a Schedule III Controlled Substance

Legislation was enacted on September 22, 2003 designating HCG as a Schedule III controlled substance in New York State. HCG is no longer required to be prescribed and dispensed upon an official NYS prescription. However, the new law requires that pharmacies continue to submit information from HCG prescriptions to the Department of Health by the 15th of the month following the month in which the prescription for HCG was dispensed.

Pharmacies must submit required information from prescriptions for HCG in the same manner that they currently submit information from official NYS prescriptions. Pharmacies submitting information may leave the serial number field blank or use the serial number 88888888 for each dispensed prescription for HCG.