

From: Virginia Board of Optometry <optbd@dhp.virginia.gov>

Date: Tue, Apr 21, 2020

Subject: Electronic Transmission of Opioid Prescriptions



Virginia Board of Optometry

Change to the Code of Virginia

Applies ONLY to TPA-Certified Optometrists Prescribing Hydrocodone in Combination with Acetaminophen

The General Assembly sessions in 2017 ([SB1230](#) and [HB2165](#)) and 2019 ([HB2559](#)) passed legislation to amend [§54.1-3408.02](#) related to electronic prescriptions for opioids. **As of July 1, 2020, prescriptions for controlled substances that contain an opioid must be electronically transmitted to the patient's pharmacy.** Transmission of electronic prescriptions for a drug in Schedules II-V must comply with federal requirements.

For more information on compliance with federal requirements for electronically transmitted prescriptions [CLICK HERE](#);

For specific questions regarding whether a software platform complies with federal requirements or how to properly execute an electronic prescription, contact the software vendor.

For practitioners unable to comply with federal requirements for electronically transmitting prescriptions for hydrocodone with acetaminophen, legislation authorizes the Board of Optometry to grant a one-time waiver of the electronic prescription requirement, not to exceed one year. The Board of Optometry may only grant a waiver if the requesting TPA-Certified Optometrist demonstrates economic hardship, technological limitations that are not reasonably within his control, or other exceptional circumstances. Please review the law and determine if a waiver is needed. To apply for a waiver [CLICK HERE](#) and provide all required information, including a detailed narrative of the circumstances that support a waiver request and ensure that the submit button has been clicked. Notification of the Board's decision will be emailed within 30 days.

Questions may be directed to optbd@dhp.virginia.gov

Please put "Waiver" in the subject line of email

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