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Waivers granted by the Board of Pharmacy pursuant to Executive Order 51 and §54.1-3307.3 in the following categories:

1) Facilitating patient's ability to obtain prescription drugs early to ensure sufficient supply (18VAC110-20-320)

Pharmacists may exercise professional judgement regarding the dispensing of early refills of a Schedule VI drug, a one-time early refill of a Schedule III-V drug, or an early prescription dispensing for a Schedule II chronic medication. Relaxed requirements for emergency prescriptions of Schedule II drugs.

2) Removing barrier for pharmacists to dispense emergency refills. (§54.1-3410)

Waives requirement for pharmacist to make a reasonable attempt to contact prescriber when exercising professional judgement regarding the dispensing of a Schedule VI prescription with no refills when pharmacist ascertains patient's health would be in imminent danger without the benefits of the drug.

3) Facilitating hospital inpatient pharmacy to dispense drugs to discharge patients to obviate patient's need to obtain drugs from community pharmacy after leaving hospital. (§54.1-3410, §54.1-3463, and 18VAC110-20-330)

Waives the required elements of a label for an outpatient prescription if the inpatient hospital pharmacy provides the patient with reasonably adequate information to ensure safe use of the drug.

4) Pharmacist compounding of hand sanitizer. (§54.1-3410.2)

Waives the requirement that a pharmacist may only compound pursuant to a prescription and thereby authorizes pharmacists to compound and sell hand sanitizer at a reasonable price without first receiving a prescription.

5) Conserving gowns and masks worn in sterile compounding. (§54.1-3410.2)

Authorizes pharmacists to implement a process for safely re-using masks and gowns used in non-hazardous sterile compounding to mitigate possible shortages of garb.

6) Easing licensure burden for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to practice within and remotely into Virginia. (§54.1-3320, §54.1-3321, 18VAC110-20-276, 18VAC110-20-515)

Waives licensure requirements to allow pharmacists and pharmacy technicians not licensed in Virginia, but currently holding an unrestricted license in another state, or national certification as a pharmacy technician, to practice in Virginia or to provide central/remote order processing or order verification services on behalf of an out-of-state pharmacy. Also, waives restriction that only a pharmacist may access the employer pharmacy's database from a remote location for the purpose of performing certain prescription processing functions and thereby authorizes pharmacy technicians to perform similar functions restricted to a pharmacy technician remotely as well.

7) Easing registration burden for pharmacy technician trainees. (18VAC110-20-111(C))

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Pharmacy technician trainees may only perform duties for 9-months prior to passing national exam and obtaining board registration. Testing sites administering the exam are currently closed. Allows pharmacy technician trainee currently enrolled in board-approved pharmacy technician training program and whose 9-month allowance for performing duties restricted to a pharmacy technician is about to expire or has recently expired, to continue performing pharmacy technician duties for the duration of the declared emergency.

8) Reducing exposure and contamination when providing drug kits to facilities with positive or presumptive positive test patients. (18VAC110-20-540, 18VAC110-20-550, 18VAC110-20-555)

Because COVID-19 virus can remain on the surface of a plastic drug kit and it can be difficult to adequately clean the kit, the requirement for a pharmacy to exchange a stat box or emergency kit within 72 hours of the box/kit being opened in a long term care or correctional facility that has patients with a positive or presumptive positive test was relaxed to simply allow the pharmacy to send the replacement meds needed for the box/kit to the facility. Also, the requirement that only a pharmacist or pharmacy technician may replace drugs in an automated dispensing device at the facility was relaxed to allow a nurse at the impacted facility to replace the drugs in the device.

9) Mitigating potential shortage of compounded drugs in hospitals if staffing resources or distribution model diminished. (§54.1-3410.2)

Waives the prohibition for a pharmacy to distribute compounded drug products to another pharmacy under common ownership or control if a hospital pharmacy is unable to compound sterile drugs to meet the demand of its own patients and 503B (outsourcing facilities) are unable to provide the compounded sterile products (CSP) in a reasonable period of time to meet patient need. The CSPs may be dispensed patient-specifically or may be provided as non-patient specific anticipatory CSPs.

10) Facilitating patients receiving methadone take-home doses (§54.1-3321)

Nurses practicing at an opioid treatment program (OTP) pharmacy may assist pharmacists by performing the duties of a pharmacy technician without holding such registration by preparing take-home doses which will be verified for accuracy by a pharmacist prior to dispensing.

11) Authorized delivery or mailing of dispensed drugs by physicians (§54.1-3401)

To mitigate exposure to the virus, physicians licensed by the Board of Pharmacy to dispensed drugs may delivery or mail dispensed drugs to the patient's residence.

12) Relaxation of 5% Distribution Rule (§ 54.1-3435.02(A))

To mitigate drug shortages, authorizes pharmacies to distribute more than 5% of its allowable drug to other pharmacies without obtaining a wholesale distributor license.

12) Facilitating admission to pharmacist licensure examinations (18 VAC 110-21-80(A))

To overcome backlog in securing testing dates due to reduced testing sites with limited access, requirement for proof of graduation prior to authorizing pharmacy students admission to licensure

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examinations is waived. Examination score and license will not be awarded until proof of graduation is received and all other licensure requirements have been met.

*Additional information regarding these waivers is found in the document entitled *Emergency Provisions for Pharmacists during the COVID-19 Declared Emergency*, which may be accessed on the board's website at <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Pharmacy/>