

Scheduling of Gabapentin

The 2019 Virginia General Assembly passed [HB2557](#) which classifies gabapentin as a Schedule V controlled substance as of July 1, 2019. Until then, gabapentin remains a drug of concern classified as a Schedule VI controlled substance.

On July 1, 2019, veterinary establishments that possess gabapentin must take a complete and accurate inventory of this drug at the opening of business in accordance with [§54.1-3404](#) and maintain compliance with [18VAC150-20-190](#) for a Schedule V controlled substance.

As of July 1, 2019, pharmacies dispensing and refilling gabapentin are required to comply with the requirements of the *Regulations Governing the Practice of Pharmacy*, [18VAC110-20-320](#), in that a Schedule V controlled substance shall not be dispensed or refilled more than six months after the date on which such prescription was issued, nor may it be refilled more than five times. Dispensers with active prescriptions on file with a date of issuance greater than six months or that have been refilled five times or more will be considered expired. While a prescriber should authorize no more than five refills of gabapentin beginning July 1, 2019, should a pharmacist receive a prescription authorizing more than five refills, the prescription will still expire six months after the date of issuance or after five refills, whichever occurs first.

While this scheduling action occurred under State law, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has not yet scheduled gabapentin. Therefore, a prescriber is not required to hold a DEA registration in order to possess or prescribe gabapentin.