Governor Greg Abbott has declared a state of disaster in Texas due to COVID-19 (coronavirus).

The laws and rules governing the practice of pharmacy in Texas require pharmacies and pharmacists to comply with certain annual inventory requirements. Specifically, board rule 291.17(c)(3) states:

The person(s) taking the annual inventory and the pharmacist-in-charge shall indicate the time the inventory was taken (as specified in subsection (a)(7) of this section) and shall sign and date the inventory with the date the inventory was taken. The signature of the pharmacist-in-charge and the date of the inventory shall be notarized within three days after the day the inventory is completed, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays.

The Texas State Board of Pharmacy has determined that strict compliance with these laws could prevent, hinder, or delay the delivery of pharmaceutical services in relation to efforts to cope with the declared disaster.

Accordingly, the Office of the Governor has temporarily suspended the notarization requirement of board rule 291.17(c)(3). This suspension is in effect until terminated by the Office of the Governor or until the March 13, 2020, disaster declaration is lifted or expires.

§291.17 Inventory Requirements

(c) Annual inventory.

(1) A Class A, Class A-S, Class C, Class C-S, or Class F pharmacy shall take an inventory on May 1 of each year, or on the pharmacy's regular general physical inventory date. Such inventory may be taken within four days of the specified inventory date and shall include all stocks of all controlled substances (including out-of-date drugs).

(2) A Class A, Class A-S, Class C, Class C-S, or Class F pharmacy applying for renewal of a pharmacy license shall include as a part of the pharmacy license renewal application a statement attesting that an annual inventory has been conducted, the date of the inventory, and the name of the person(s) taking the inventory.

(3) The person(s) taking the annual inventory and the pharmacist-in-charge shall indicate the time the inventory was taken (as specified in subsection (a)(7) of this section) and shall sign and date the inventory with the date the inventory was taken. The signature of the pharmacist-in-charge and the date of the inventory shall be notarized within three days after the day the inventory is completed, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays.