

Personnel

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 certain pharmacy duties to be performed only by a pharmacist. Specifically, board rule [291.32\(c\)\(2\)\(A\), \(K\)](#) provides that pharmacist duties include receiving oral prescription drug orders and reducing the orders to writing, and transferring or receiving a transfer of original prescription information on behalf of a patient.

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 requirement that only a pharmacist may receive oral prescription drug orders and reduce the orders to writing, and transfer or receive a transfer of original prescription information on behalf of a patient in board rule 291.32(c)(2)(A), (K) to the extent necessary to allow these duties to be performed by pharmacy technicians. 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.

§291.32 Personnel

(c) Pharmacists.

(2) Duties. Duties which may only be performed by a pharmacist are as follows:

~~(A) receiving oral prescription drug orders and reducing these orders to writing, either manually or electronically;~~

(B) interpreting prescription drug orders;

(C) selecting drug products;

(D) performing the final check of the dispensed prescription before delivery to the patient to ensure that the prescription has been dispensed accurately as prescribed;

(E) communicating to the patient or patient's agent information about the prescription drug or device which in the exercise of the pharmacist's professional judgment, the pharmacist deems significant, as specified in §291.33(c) of this title;

(F) communicating to the patient or the patient's agent on his or her request information concerning any prescription drugs dispensed to the patient by the pharmacy;

(G) assuring that a reasonable effort is made to obtain, record, and maintain patient medication records;

(H) interpreting patient medication records and performing drug regimen reviews;

(I) performing a specific act of drug therapy management for a patient delegated to a pharmacist by a written protocol from a physician licensed in this state in compliance with the Medical Practice Act;

(J) verifying that controlled substances listed on invoices are received by clearly recording his/her initials and date of receipt of the controlled substances; and

~~(K) transferring or receiving a transfer of original prescription information on behalf of a patient.~~