

## **ALERT: ILLEGAL OFFICIAL PRESCRIPTION FORMS**

Recently, the Texas State Board of Pharmacy (TSBP) received reports from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) regarding pharmacies that have filled prescriptions for Schedule II (C-II) controlled substances that were issued on illegal Official Prescription forms. According to DPS, the prescribers requested printing companies to reproduce the Official Prescription forms instead of ordering the forms from DPS. On the illegal forms, the control number was duplicated such that the same control number appeared on all reproduced (non-official) forms.

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians should be “on the look out” for illegal Official Prescription forms. The following is a brief review of the safety features contained in the Official Prescription forms obtained from DPS. Pharmacists should be alert to these safety features to prevent filling illegal prescriptions.

### **Safety Features of Official Prescription Forms:**

#### **EACH FORM CONTAINS ALL OF THESE SAFETY FEATURES**

- **Control Number** – This number is located in the uppermost portion of the form just above the line for the patient’s name and is unique for each prescription form. This number must be transmitted to DPS when a C-II prescription is filled.
- **Pantograph** – This is a security feature that produces the word “VOID” multiple times on the face of the prescription form when someone attempts to copy or scan the prescription. If this feature is missing the prescription form is not an original from DPS.
- **Thermochromic ink** – This feature is found on the back of the prescription form. Applying heat or vigorously rubbing the area between the thumb and forefinger will reveal the word “SAFE” or cause the check mark to disappear briefly then reappear. If any other results are obtained when rubbing the thermochromic ink area, the prescription form should be considered suspect.
- **The DPS seal** – The seal of the Texas Department of Public Safety appears as a watermark on the face of the prescription. Without this feature, the prescription form was probably not obtained from DPS.