

CORRECTION
Pharmacy Law Update
Fred Grill Memorial Seminars
March 3, 2002
Embassy Suites, Tigard

After the pharmacy law presentation on Sunday, March 3, at the Fred Grill Seminar, a question was asked and the answer that was given was dead wrong. This notice will provide the correct answer to the question.

Question:

Please clarify the rule regarding 1 year or 2 year duration for prescriptions written with PRN or numbered refills.

Correct Answer:

If a prescription for a non-controlled substance is written with PRN refills and no other notation, the prescription may be refilled for 1 year from the date it was written.

If a prescription for a non-controlled substance is written with PRN refills with an added notation indicating the number of refills, that prescription may be refilled the appropriate number of times within a 2 year period beginning on the date it was written unless the prescriber indicates otherwise.

If a prescription for a non-controlled substance is written for a number of refills without a notation of PRN, it can be refilled for the appropriate number of times within a 2 year period, unless the prescriber indicates otherwise.

Summary:

The potential life span of a prescription in Oregon is 2 years. This may be limited by the refill directions. Prescriptions written with the only refill instruction being "PRN", are limited to 1 year. Prescriptions for C-III through C-V written with the only refill instruction being "PRN", may be refilled 5 times or for 6 months as required by the DEA. All other prescriptions for non-controlled substances may be refilled for 2 years from the date written unless a shorter duration is indicated by the prescriber.

Examples:

- | | |
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| 1. "...Refill PRN"
Good for one year | 2. "...Refill PRN x 6 mo."
Good for 6 months |
| 3. "...Refill PRN X 2 yr."
Good for 2 years | 4. "...Refill PRN x 3"
Good for 3 refills within 2 years |

The original notice of this rule change appeared in the Board of Pharmacy Newsletter in August of 2000, shortly after the rule was adopted.