



News Release

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Tamper-resistant prescription paper start date will not be extended

July 1 deadline approaching quickly; prescribers need to stock supplies

OLYMPIA — July 1 is the day drug prescribers in Washington must start using special prescription pads and paper, so time is short to order supplies. It's important for prescribers to have the new paper and pads to avoid delay in patients' medications. The new law is intended to increase patient safety and to stop people from stealing or altering existing prescriptions.

The law, passed in 2009, says all prescription paper or pads must have the state Board of Pharmacy approval seal. There will be no extension of the July 1 start date. More information on [the new requirement](#) (www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/trpp) is online.

Prescribers are responsible for making sure they use board-approved prescription paper or pads as required by the law. They should contact their current prescription paper supplier to get approved paper.

These standards in the new law are designed to help prevent copying, altering and other forms of counterfeiting. The board will approve only paper or pads that include these security features and that contain the special seal.

State health officials have sent multiple notices to the more than 53,000 health professionals in 13 different professions who can write prescriptions in the state. This includes advanced registered nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, physicians, physician assistants, certified physician assistants, osteopathic physicians and assistants, dentists, veterinarians, naturopathic physicians, optometrists, podiatric physicians and pharmacists.

The security features in the new prescription pads and paper are identical to those required under the federal Medicaid program. The only difference is prescription paper in Washington must include the state Board of Pharmacy seal.

Prescribers won't be able to use existing inventories of prescription paper after July 1. Any prescriber who doesn't have approved paper on hand will have to send prescriptions electronically or by fax to a pharmacy.