

REMINDER: The Use of Mandatory Counterfeit-Proof Prescriptions Effective August 30

The new law requiring the use of counterfeit-proof prescription pads or printer paper when prescribing controlled substance(s) will be enforced effective Tuesday, August 30. You may recall the original effective date of July 1 was delayed by the State Surgeon General, Dr. Frank Farmer, for 60 days.

The appropriate pads or printer paper must be purchased from a vendor approved by the Department of Health (DOH). The state approved vendor list includes 360 vendors from around the state and a list of frequently asked questions and answers. Both the vendor list and the frequently asked questions can be found at:
<http://doh.state.fl.us/mqa/counterfeit-proof.html>.

Physicians May Query the Florida Prescription Drug Database in Mid-October

Another aspect of the state's plan to curb the illicit distribution of prescription drugs is the long-awaited launch of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Database. The Prescription Drug Monitoring Database is expected to go "live" in mid-October. When this occurs, Physicians and other health care professionals will be able to query the database for any indication a patient is engaging in the practice of doctor shopping for the expressed purpose of accumulating prescription drugs for illicit reasons. There is no requirement to query the database prior to writing a prescription. In early October, you can begin registering for query privileges at <http://www.eforcse.com/>.

The database will be populated by mandatory reports from pharmacies and dispensing practitioners. Dispensing practitioners are authorized to write a prescription for controlled substances and fill prescriptions in his or her office. More information about Florida's Prescription Drug Database can be found at <http://www.eforcse.com/>.

Key Dates for Implementation of Prescription Drug Monitoring Program:

- **Currently**- Physicians licensed as dispensing practitioners must register to input mandatory reporting requirements
- **August 30**- Physicians and other Health Care Providers must use counterfeit resistant prescription pads or paper for prescriptions associated with controlled substances
- **September 1***- Reporting by dispensing practitioners to begin, required every 7 days thereafter
- **September 8***- First report by dispensing practitioners must be filed
- **October 1***- Registration to access voluntary prescription drug database querying privileges begins
- **October 17***- Physicians may begin to voluntarily query the database

*Indicates projected date as released by the Department of Health and dates are subject to change.