

Drug Enforcement Administration
Diversion Control Division
Civil Unrest Emergency Guidance Document

Title: Civil Unrest Q&A Pharmacy Prescription Transfer

Question: I am a pharmacist who is unable to dispense prescriptions due to civil unrest. How can my patients obtain their controlled substance medications?

Answer: If you are unable to conduct business, it is recommended that you advise your patients of the following regarding how they may obtain their controlled substance medications from another pharmacy.

DEA regulations allow for the transfer of original prescription information for a schedule III-V controlled substance to another pharmacy for refill purposes on a one-time basis only. However, if your pharmacy electronically shares a real-time, online database with another pharmacy, original prescription information may be transferred to allow that pharmacy to refill the prescription up to the maximum number of refills permitted by law and the prescriber's authorization. 21 CFR 1306.25(a).

Please note, all transfers must be communicated directly between two licensed pharmacists and comply with all other applicable requirements of 21 CFR 1306.25(b) – (e).

DEA recommends that you contact your state pharmacy authority to ensure that you remain in compliance with state pharmacy laws and guidance. Please contact your [local field office](#) for additional information.

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