

## **BOARD ANNOUNCES ADOPTION OF TRAVEL MEDICATIONS REGULATION**

The [California State Board of Pharmacy](#) announces the formal adoption of a [new regulation](#) setting out standards for pharmacists to follow in order to furnish travel medications without a doctor's prescription. The regulation took effect June 8, 2017.

The regulation will make it easier for people traveling to destinations outside the United States to obtain prescription medications for conditions that are recognized as both self-diagnosable and self-treatable by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Obtaining travel medications at pharmacies without having to see a doctor will increase Californians' access to care, reduce costs, and benefit public health and safety.

The board has added section 1746.5, Pharmacists Furnishing Travel Medications, to Division 17 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). The regulation specifies extensive training requirements for a pharmacist who furnishes travel medications:

- An immunization training program that meets the requirements of Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 4052.8(b)(1).
- A travel medicine training program consisting of at least 10 hours and covering each element of the International Society of Travel Medicine's Body of Knowledge for the Practice of Travel Medicine (2012) .
- The CDC Yellow Fever Vaccine Course.
- Current certification in basic life support.

In addition, pharmacists must complete two hours of continuing education (CE) training focused on travel medicine every two years; the training must be separate from CE in immunizations and vaccines.

Before furnishing travel medications, a pharmacist must perform a good faith evaluation of the patient. The pharmacist must evaluate the patient's travel history, which must include all the information necessary for a risk assessment during pre-travel consultation as identified by the CDC's Health Information for International Travel (commonly known as the Yellow Book). An [example of an appropriate travel history form](#) is available on the board's website.

The regulation requires the pharmacist to notify the patient's primary care provider of furnished drugs or devices within 14 days. If the patient does not have a primary care provider, the pharmacist must give the patient a written record of the furnished drugs or devices and advise the patient to consult with a physician. The pharmacist also must maintain a physical or electronic patient medication record of each furnished medication that is readily retrievable

during normal operating hours. In addition, the pharmacist must give the patient a written document that reflects the clinical assessment and travel medication plan.

Information about travel medications, including links to the text of CCR section 1746.5 and a travel history form, is available on the [Travel Medications](#) page at the board's website.

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