

Important Information for Licensees During Declared States of Emergency

During a declared state of emergency, the California State Board of Pharmacy reminds licensees of information and state laws intended to help pharmacists provide prescription drugs – including controlled substances – for residents displaced because of emergency evacuation.

Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code (BPC) [section 4062\(b\)](#), the Board permits pharmacies to provide care by waiving requirements that may be impossible to meet during an emergency – including requirements for prescription forms, record-keeping, labeling, and other standard pharmacy practices and duties. Pharmacists should document “**dispensed pursuant to BPC 4062(b)**” on the prescription form in case of audit by the Board or an insurance company.

In addition, BPC [section 4064](#) authorizes pharmacists to use professional judgment to refill a prescription for a dangerous drug or device without a prescriber’s authorization if failure to refill the prescription might interrupt ongoing care or have a significant adverse impact on the patient’s well-being.

The Board’s formal policy for filling prescriptions during an emergency is spelled out in “[Board Policy Statement: Disaster Response](#)” on the Board’s website. To read the statement, go to www.pharmacy.ca.gov > About Us > Board Information > Policy Statements > Disaster Response.

Additional resources:

- **Ask an Inspector:** For questions, contact the Board’s Ask an Inspector program by phone at (916) 518-3100, by fax at (916) 574-8618, or by email at ask.inspector@dca.ca.gov. A duty inspector is available by phone from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday and by email or fax during regular business hours Monday through Friday.
- **Subscriber alerts:** The Board will distribute important and updated information during emergencies to licensees via subscriber alerts. Pharmacies and individual licensees are required to register their email addresses to receive alerts. You may register online at the [Board of Pharmacy Email Registration webpage](#).
- **Pharmacy Law:** The Board’s online [Pharmacy Lawbook](#) contains the full text of BPC sections 4062 and 4064 as well as other California laws and regulations governing pharmacy. A link to the lawbook can be found on the Board’s website in the “Quick Hits” column on the homepage.

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