

Vermont Pharmacist Prescribing Protocol – Emergency Prescribing of Albuterol and Glucagon While Contemporaneously Contacting Emergency Services

Background

A pharmacist may prescribe albuterol and glucagon in a manner consistent with a valid State protocol approved by the Commissioner of Health, after consultation with the Director of Professional Regulation and the Board of Pharmacy (BOP). 26 V.S.A. § 2023(b)(2)(A)(i).

A pharmacist who independently prescribes albuterol or glucagon must follow this protocol. When prescribing per this protocol, the pharmacist is the prescriber-of-record.

Definitions

“Emergency prescribing” in this context means prescribing and dispensing of albuterol and glucagon to someone who is experiencing a respiratory or hypoglycemic emergency

General Considerations

Prescribing albuterol or glucagon under this protocol requires the pharmacist to:

1. Have training and education in that area sufficient to perform the duties involved;
2. Document prescribing, including notifying the patient's primary care provider within 5 business days;
3. Keep a written copy of the protocol at each location from where prescriptions are issued for, or dispensing of, albuterol or glucagon occurs; and
4. Provide a copy of the protocol available upon the request of an inspector.

Pharmacists and pharmacies are encouraged to post a notice or to otherwise alert customers that pharmacists may prescribe albuterol and glucagon in the setting of an emergency for which these medications are indicated.

Procedures

When an individual actively experiencing an emergency for which albuterol or glucagon is indicated, or the representative of such an individual, presents to the pharmacy; or when a pharmacist in his or her professional judgement deems it necessary to prescribe albuterol or glucagon to such an individual, the pharmacist shall complete the following steps:

1. Immediately dispense the necessary product and initiate contact with emergency services, performing the usual prescription processing afterwards.
2. Provide oral or written counsel to the recipient, or their representative, on the product dispensed to include:
 - a. administration;
 - b. effectiveness;
 - c. adverse effects;
 - d. storage conditions and shelf-life; and
 - e. any other information deemed necessary in the professional judgment of the pharmacist.

A prescribing pharmacist dispensing albuterol pursuant to this protocol shall not permit the recipient or representative to waive the provision of the written information or the counseling required by this protocol, which should be in the primary language of the recipient.

Authorized Drugs

Prescribing and dispensing done pursuant to this protocol is limited to FDA-approved albuterol inhalers or injectable glucagon products.

Prescribing Records

The pharmacist must generate a written or electronic prescription for any albuterol or glucagon dispensed. The prescription must include all the information required by Administrative Rule 10.1. The prescription must be processed in the same manner that any other prescription is processed, pursuant to the applicable statutes and rules for the dispensing of prescription drugs. The prescription shall be kept on file and maintained for a minimum of three years, as required by the rules of the Vermont BOP. Pharmacists are reminded to adhere to record-keeping requirements for prescriptions paid for by Medicare and Medicaid, which may differ from those required by BOP.

APPROVED:



Date: 8/15/23

Commissioner, Vermont Department of Health



Date: 9/25/2023

Director, Office of Professional Regulation