

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION
DIVISION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

BOARD OF PHARMACY

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Board of Pharmacy

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January 2, 2020

BOARD NOTICE

This Board notice is to provide a reminder to New Hampshire pharmacists concerning House Bill 359, relative to warning labels on prescription drugs containing opiates that was approved by statute effective January 1, 2020 ([RSA 318-B:16-a](#)). Board compliance would like to highlight what board investigators and inspectors will be looking for upon normal Board inspection and/or audit request;

1. *An orange sticker placed on the cap or dispenser that states in readable font the word “**OPIOID**”.*
2. *An orange warning label placed on the bottle or dispenser that states “**RISK OF ADDICTION AND OVERDOSE**”.*
3. *A [handout](#), developed by the Governor’s Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery that can be found on the Board website.*

We would like to remind all Pharmacist’s that these are requirements by statute and need to be placed on all opioid prescriptions depending on your practice setting. A copy of the statute is enclosed for your review. Please discuss these new rules with your staff and make them aware of the processes involved with this new program.

Board investigators and inspectors currently will be verifying that pharmacies are compliant with this new statute as part of the normal inspection process. Violation notices will be written for noncompliance and reviewed by Board for further disciplinary action.

By Order of the Board,

Handwritten signature of Michael D. Bullek in black ink.

Michael D. Bullek, BSP, R.Ph.
Administrator / Chief of Compliance

CHAPTER 318-B
NH CONTROLLED DRUG ACT

RSA 318-B:16-a Controlled Drugs Containing Opiates; Warning Label Required. – Any controlled drug containing opiates dispensed by a health care provider or pharmacy shall have an orange sticker with the word "opioid" in easily legible font placed on the cap or dispenser and shall have a warning label stating "Risk of addiction and overdose." The health care provider or pharmacist shall also provide each person with a handout which shall be developed and approved by the governor's commission on alcohol and drug abuse, prevention, treatment, and recovery which shall include guidance on associated risks of opioid use and how to mitigate them. This section shall not apply to pharmacists or a pharmacy that dispenses a drug containing an opioid that is administered to a patient treated in a health care facility required to be licensed under RSA 151. A patient may remove the cap sticker or warning label.

Source. 2019, 210:1, eff. Jan. 1, 2020.