

**State of New Hampshire**  
**OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION**

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## Board Notice – Ph 704.15

Recently, the board has become aware of instances of patients being denied an interim supply of medication that could have led to patient harm. Rule Ph704.15 provides a pharmacist the authority to dispense an interim supply medication or refill to prevent a disruption in medication treatment that may lead to patient harm. This may be done, as described in the rule for a variety of reasons. The decision to provide an interim supply rest with the pharmacist. Should a pharmacist decide to provide an interim supply, the amount shall not exceed a 30-day supply, and the pharmacist shall comply with the requirements of the rule.

The Board brings this rule to your attention, as it is often forgotten, and the rule exist to help you protect your patient from potential harm from an abrupt discontinuance of a medication regimen.

**Ph 704.15 Prescription Refill - Interim Supply. A pharmacist may refill a prescription drug order, including controlled substances listed in Schedules III, IV and V, without the authorization of the prescribing practitioner, provided that:**

(a) A failure to refill the prescription might result in an interruption of a therapeutic regimen or create patient suffering;

(b) The pharmacist is unable to contact the practitioner due to:

(1) A natural or man-made disaster has occurred which prohibits the pharmacist from being able to contact the practitioner; or

(2) The practitioner's office being closed without a practitioner on call;

(c) The quantity of prescription drug dispensed does not exceed a 30 day supply for maintenance medications;

(d) The pharmacist informs the patient or the patient's agent at the time of dispensing that the interim supply shall be final and that authorization by the practitioner shall be required for future refills;

(e) The pharmacist shall inform the prescribing practitioner of the limited emergency supply, provided to the patient, at the earliest reasonable time; and

(f) The pharmacists exercises professional judgement in refilling the prescription drug order.