

KASPER Tips: Controlled Substance Prescribing Tips Part II

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The Drug Enforcement and Professional Practices Branch (DEPPB) is responsible for enforcing the Kentucky Controlled Substances Act (KRS 218A), the Kentucky Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (KRS 217), and the operation of the KASPER program. The DEPPB would like to provide tips to all prescribers of controlled substances to assist you in your everyday practice:

1. **Spelling helps.** If you don't already, consider spelling out quantities and refills in addition to writing or circling the number on the prescription. This will help reduce chances that these fields can be altered by the patient prior to presenting the prescription to the pharmacy. Also, this will help pharmacists to quickly identify an altered prescription.
2. **Photo ID.** Consider requiring a copy of the patient's photo ID to be added to the patient chart. This will provide an additional source of verification of date of birth and address, as well as ensure that the patient you are treating is really who they say they are.
3. **Make copies of prescriptions for the chart.** To better assist you in record keeping and to assist in the case of an altered or forged prescription, consider making it your policy to make copies of all controlled substance prescriptions to keep in the patient's chart. If you use an Electronic Medical Record (EMR), your EMR should keep track of this by date-stamping and time-stamping prescriptions in the patient's chart. If you phone in the prescription, make sure to document that in the chart as well.
4. **Collaborate with your local pharmacists.** Consider reaching out to your local pharmacists to inform them of your typical prescribing habits. For example, no refills on benzodiazepines or only a one week supply of a pain medication after a surgical procedure. This will assist pharmacists in helping to identify fraudulent prescriptions that may be phoned in or presented to the pharmacy.
5. **Prescription blanks.** As a reminder, when prescribing a controlled substance while practicing in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, controlled substances must be written on secure prescription blanks. A secure prescription blank has many features that make it easy to identify possible altered prescriptions, such as a repeating "VOID" pattern appearing across the entire front of the prescription when copied, and a printed watermark on the back of the blank stating "Kentucky Security Prescription" that can be seen only at a 45° angle. Please refer to 902 KAR 55:105, 21 CFR §1306.05, and KRS 217.216 for more information, or call the DEPPB at the number below.

Remember DEPPB staff is available to help with any questions or problems you may encounter. For support please contact DEPPB staff at (502) 564-7985.

Next time: The KASPER Prescriber Report ("Reverse KASPER")

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