



Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission

Guidance Document

Title:	Pharmacy Closures and Prescription Transfers of Noncontrolled Legend Drugs Under WAC 246-945-345
Reference:	WAC 246-945-345
Contact:	Marlee B. O'Neill, Executive Director Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission
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Supersedes:	
Approved:	Hawkins DeFrance, Chair Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission

Summary

The Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission (commission) has determined that noncontrolled prescription transfer requests from patients of Rite Aid pharmacies are “emergent situations” for the purposes of WAC 246-945-345(5). As a result, such noncontrolled prescriptions may be transferred by methods other than electronic means or facsimile, as described below, until November 6, 2025 (160 days from the effective date of this guidance).

Background

On [May 5, 2025](#), Rite Aid commenced Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings, which will result in pharmacy closures nationwide, including Washington. The commission understands that Rite Aid pharmacy closures in Washington will result in an increase in requests to transfer prescriptions from Rite Aid pharmacies to another pharmacy. Based on this information, the commission has determined that noncontrolled prescription transfer requests from patients of Rite Aid pharmacies are “emergent situations” for the purpose of WAC 246-945-345.

Guidance for Noncontrolled Prescription Transfers

Provisions for prescription transfers of noncontrolled prescriptions are established in [WAC 246-945-345](#). This rule includes a requirement that pharmacies transfer prescriptions within three (3) business days of receiving the request, or within a time frame that does not adversely impact the provision of medication therapy, whichever comes first.

[WAC 246-945-345](#)(5) states: “[n]oncontrolled prescriptions must be transferred by electronic means or facsimile, except in emergent situations.” As noted above, the commission has determined that noncontrolled prescription transfer requests from patients of Rite Aid pharmacies are “emergent situations” for the purpose of WAC 246-945-345(5). As a result, noncontrolled substance prescriptions from patients of Rite Aid pharmacies that are closing may be transferred by methods other than electronic means or facsimile.

The commission has further determined that acceptable noncontrolled prescription transfer methods are: (i) transfer of prescription information by telephone between pharmacists, (ii) transfer and use of prescription information contained in a patient profile, or (iii) transfer and use of prescription information contained in printouts from Rite Aid. Commission licensees are not permitted to use these alternative transfer methods unless *all* necessary information is obtained to complete the prescription transfer, such as all elements of a prescription for a noncontrolled legend drug listed in WAC 246-945-010(3). Finally, commission licensees are permitted to use these alternative transfer methods for Rite Aid patients affected by pharmacy closures until November 6, 2025 (160 days after this guidance becomes effective).

Nothing in this guidance document changes a pharmacist’s obligation to utilize their professional judgment when engaging in the practice of pharmacy.