



Important Notice to All Licensees Regarding Fraudulent Prescriptions - UPDATED

The Board has been made aware of an increasing number of fraudulent prescriptions for promethazine/codeine being dispensed at this time.

These fraudulent prescriptions are generated using two primary techniques:

- Phone-in prescriptions: suspects will download apps to generate VoIP phone numbers which are then used to impersonate prescribers and fictitious patients. The suspects then call pharmacies and order promethazine/codeine, accompanied with a non-controlled substance such as Flonase, an inhaler, prednisone, or antibiotic. The suspect provides a DEA number, an NPI number, and in many instances, a diagnosis code. The caller also provides a generated number for the "patient." Unsuspecting pharmacies then call the "patient" once the prescription is filled, and the "patient" typically tells the pharmacy that a relative will pick it up. Pharmacies sometimes call the number left for the prescriber to verify that the prescription is valid, and they end up speaking with the suspect again.
- Paper prescriptions: suspects may produce fraudulent prescriptions on valid Rx paper.

To help combat these fraudulent prescriptions, it is recommended that pharmacies verify promethazine/codeine prescriptions with the practitioner's office by means other than the phone numbers provided on the prescriptions.

UPDATE: Pharmacies and/or pharmacists should report all incidents of prescription fraud to the Board of Pharmacy and **must report such activity to local law enforcement**.

Reports to the Board may be filed online by visiting: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/complaint.
