



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 19
[2017 Assembly Bill 125]

Prescription Order Extensions

2017 Wisconsin Act 19 establishes a procedure allowing a pharmacist to extend a prescription drug order and dispense a limited supply of a drug to a patient, in certain cases, when the prescription cannot otherwise be refilled as provided under state law.

In order for the procedure to apply, the drug must be part of a consistent drug therapy program and essential to the life of the patient or likely to result in undesirable health consequences for the patient if treatment is interrupted. The patient must have previously refilled the prescription at the pharmacy or through another pharmacy in the same pharmacy chain. The pharmacist must attempt to contact the prescribing practitioner or the practitioner's office to procure a new prescription, without success, and must be unaware of instructions from the prescribing practitioner prohibiting any further dispensing pursuant to or extension of the prescription order. A pharmacist that extends a prescription order and dispenses the drug to the patient under the procedure in the Act must notify the prescribing practitioner or the practitioner's office.

The Act prohibits the use of the procedure for a controlled substance. In addition, the pharmacist generally may not use the procedure to dispense more than a seven-day supply of a prescribed drug. Lastly, the pharmacist may not extend a prescription order for a patient if one was previously extended for that patient, for the same drug, within the previous year.

Effective date: June 23, 2017

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.