

[DEA Guidance on How to Prescribe Controlled Substances to Patients during COVID-19 \(PDF\)](#)

[COVID 19 Emergency Rule Suspensions Approved \(As of 3/26/2020\) \(PDF\)](#)

[COVID 19 Guidance for Pharmacies and Pharmacists \(PDF\)](#)

[ASBP Recommendations Concerning Potential Compounding Personal Protective Equipment Shortages \(PDF\)](#)

[USP Guidance for Compounding Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer During COVID-19 Pandemic \(PDF\)](#)

[USP Response to Shortages of Garb and Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) for Sterile Compounding During COVID-19 Pandemic \(PDF\)](#)

[Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine Information from the Arkansas Department of Health \(PDF\)](#)

Quick initial answers to a couple of common questions:

1. **Can a pharmacy limit their hours of operation?**
  - a. Yes, Pharmacies in Arkansas that hold retail permits are allowed to operate at a minimum of 40 hours per week without a Board approved waiver. If you are currently open more than 40 hours per week and wish to reduce to 40 hours per week during this pandemic then that is not a problem. If you have need to reduce to less than 40 hours per week then please contact our office.
2. **Can a pharmacy limit service to delivery only or to drive through service only?**
  - a. Yes, we have had pharmacies ask if they can lock their front doors and serve patients via delivery, drive through or curbside pickup. All of these are options for pharmacies in Arkansas
3. **Can a pharmacy ask patients to not enter the pharmacy if they are running fever or suspect that they have been exposed to illness?**
  - a. Yes, most facilities normally try and use caution with patients they come into contact with but in this environment many want to put up signage asking patients to self identify and not enter the pharmacy if they are running fever or feeling ill.
4. **What about refills if we cannot get a response from the prescriber?**
  - a. Arkansas Statutes cover this very clearly already as shown below:

## 17-92-102. Exemptions

(d) In the event a pharmacist receives a request for a prescription refill and the pharmacist is unable to obtain refill authorization from the prescriber, the pharmacist may dispense a one-time emergency refill of the prescribed medication, provided that:

- (1) The prescription is not for a medicinal drug listed in Schedule II as defined in § 5-64-205;
- (2) The medication is essential to the maintenance of life or to the continuation of therapy;
- (3) In the pharmacist's professional judgment, the interruption of therapy might reasonably produce undesirable health consequences or may cause physical or mental discomfort;
- (4) The pharmacist properly records the dispensing; and
- (5) The dispensing pharmacist notifies the prescriber of the emergency dispensing within a reasonable time after the one-time emergency refill dispensing.

### **5. What about shortages of Personal Protective Equipment for compounding?**

- a. The Board of Pharmacy would advise pharmacies to first of all be mindful in your use of PPE and take measures to mitigate waste of such equipment. Pharmacies can approach this in large part by addressing staging and preparation to use the clean room more methodically to avoid excessive waste. As we understand it, national entities are in discussions with USP to see about alternative approaches that may be taken. See the document link at the top of the page for more detailed information.

### **6. What about other questions?**

- a. Contact the Board of Pharmacy Office with other specific questions.