



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
*Olympia, Washington 98504*

May 13, 2010

All Pharmacies  
All licensed Residential Treatment Facilities

RE: Controlled Substance Medications

I am writing to address concerns regarding federal requirements for management, use and control of controlled substances in residential treatment facilities.

Current state and federal regulations require that pharmacies providing pharmaceutical services to residential treatment facilities provide only **patient specific medications**. The only exception is a pharmacy may utilize an automated drug distribution device (for example Pyxis) in the facility with staff credentialed to administer medications. A pharmacy is responsible to obtain a Board of Pharmacy approval (WAC 246-872) for all automated drug distribution devices. Additionally a pharmacy then must obtain a DEA registration for that specific machine in that facility location when controlled substances are involved.

The Board of Pharmacy recommends residential treatment facilities pursue methods for providing **patient specific medications**.

1. Use of a 24 hour retail or long term care pharmacy
2. Use of a 24 hour hospital pharmacy

For all other controlled substances, an automated drug distribution device approved by the board and DEA is the only method.

These methods need to be in place by December 31, 2010. After December 31, department inspectors will require plans of corrections for facilities failing to meet this requirement. Please contact Tim Fuller, board pharmacist consultant, for the approval process for automated drug distribution devices. Tim can be reached at [tim.fuller@doh.wa.gov](mailto:tim.fuller@doh.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Susan Teil Boyer, RPh, Executive Director  
Washington State Board of Pharmacy, and Clinical Facilities  
Office of Health Professions

Cc: Grant Chester, Chief Investigator  
Ruth Carter, DEA Regional Supervisor  
Barbara Runyon, RN, Nurse Consultant  
Tim Fuller, Pharmacist Consultant

