

New Pharmacy Laws for 2020

Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed a variety of bills adding or amending laws that govern the practice of pharmacy in California. Unless specified otherwise, the new laws take effect Jan. 1, 2020.

Many of the key provisions are summarized below. Click on the bill number to read the full text for a more complete explanation of each new law. A compilation of changes to Pharmacy Law for 2020 is also posted on the Board of Pharmacy website at www.pharmacy.ca.gov.

[AB 528](#) Controlled Substances: CURES Database

(Low, Chapter 677, Statutes of 2019)

Effective January 1, 2021, this law expands the CURES reporting requirements to include Schedule V drugs and reduces the reporting deadline to one working day from the date the prescription was released to the patient.

[AB 690](#) Pharmacies: Relocation: Remote Dispensing Site Pharmacy: Pharmacy Technician: Qualifications

(Aguilar-Curry, Chapter 679, Statutes of 2019)

Effective upon signing by the governor, this law creates a limited exemption to the licensure transferability requirements for a pharmacy to relocate because of damage caused by a declared disaster. The law also establishes specific requirements for a pharmacy technician working in a remote dispensing site pharmacy.

[AB 973](#) Pharmacies: Compounding

(Irwin, Chapter 184, Statutes of 2019)

This law requires that compounding of drug preparations by a pharmacy must be done consistent with the relevant compounding chapters of the United States Pharmacopeia-National Formulary (USP).

The board recently released a [policy statement](#) regarding California legal requirements for compounding pharmacies pending information from USP regarding implementation of chapters 795, 797, and 800. The policy statement is available on the board's website.

[AB 1723](#) Clinics: Purchasing Drugs at Wholesale

(Wood, Chapter 323, Statutes of 2019)

This law increases the maximum hours of operation for a primary care community clinic or free clinic from 20 hours to 40 hours per week.

[SB 159](#) HIV Preexposure and Postexposure Prophylaxis

(Wiener, Chapter 532, Statutes of 2019)

This comprehensive law authorizes pharmacists to independently initiate and furnish HIV preexposure and postexposure prophylaxis under specific conditions.

Key provisions also require the Board of Pharmacy, in consultation with the Medical Board of California (MBC), to approve training programs that pharmacists must complete before furnishing either preexposure or postexposure prophylaxis.

In addition, the law specifies guidelines issued by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that the Board of Pharmacy must use to establish the drug or drug combinations to be furnished:

- For HIV preexposure prophylaxis: “[2017 Preexposure Prophylaxis for the Prevention of HIV Infection in the United States – 2017 Update: A Clinical Practice Guideline](#),” or any subsequent guidelines published by the CDC.
- For HIV postexposure prophylaxis: “[Updated Guidelines for Antiretroviral Postexposure Prophylaxis After Sexual, Injection Drug Use, or Other Nonoccupational Exposure to HIV–United States, 2016](#),” or any subsequent guidelines published by the CDC.

The law also requires the Board of Pharmacy to consult with the MBC in developing emergency regulations to be adopted by July 1, 2020, to implement the law.

[SB 569](#) **Controlled Substances: Prescriptions: Declared Local, State, or Federal Emergency**
(Stone, Chapter 705, Statutes of 2019)

This law authorizes a pharmacist to fill a prescription for a controlled substance that does not conform to the controlled substances security form requirements under specific conditions.

[SB 655](#) **Pharmacy**

(Roth, Chapter 213, Statutes of 2019)

This law makes technical and other conforming changes to Pharmacy Law on a variety of matters, including externship hours for pharmacy technician trainees; reverse distributors acquiring drugs from an unlicensed source; requirements for CPJE or NAPLEX scored based on specified occupational analyses; inactivation of advance practice pharmacist license by the board; and application and renewal payments for government applicants and licensees.

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