

### **Requirements for Controlled Substances Prescription Forms**

AB 149 (Cooper, Chapter 4, Statutes of 2019) delayed the requirement for controlled substance prescription forms to have unique serialized numbers until January 1, 2020. The law also imposed new form requirements for controlled substance prescription forms.

However, a transition period was included within AB 149 to support an orderly shift by prescribers to the new forms. **The following controlled substance prescription forms will be valid for filling, compounding, or dispensing until January 1, 2021:**

- Any prescription written on a prescription form that does not have a unique serialized number but was otherwise valid before January 1, 2019.
- Any prescription written on a form approved by the Department of Justice as of January 1, 2019. This will include the fifteen (15) digit serialized number format approved by the Department of Justice.
- Any prescription written on a form that complies with the new requirements imposed by AB 149, including a compliant serial number and a barcode.

In addition, AB 149 authorized the Department of Justice to extend this time period for an additional six months if there is an inadequate availability of compliant prescription forms.

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