



MEMORANDUM

DATE	January 23, 2019
TO	Veterinary Medical Board
FROM	Jessica Sieferman, Executive Officer
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 10. Discussion on AB 1753 (Low, Chapter 479, Statutes of 2018) Regarding Serialized Controlled Substance Prescription Forms

Assembly Bill (AB) 1753 (Low, Chapter 479) was signed into law in 2018 and became effective January 1, 2019. This bill requires controlled substance security prescription forms to include a unique serialized number in a formal approved by the Department of Justice (DOJ). This bill did not include any transition period to allow for continued use of old controlled substance prescription forms on or after January 1, 2019.

On December 27, 2018, the California State Board of Pharmacy released the attached [memo](#) to all California licensed pharmacists and California pharmacies informing them of the new law and anticipated that *“some prescribers will nonetheless continue to use old prescription forms on and after January 1, 2019. And that pharmacists and pharmacies will be placed in the uncomfortable position of having to decide between providing needed medications to patients, and compliance with the law.”*

Acknowledging the prescribers may not have been able to obtain compliant prescription pads by January 1, 2019, the CSBP’s Enforcement Committee *“recommended to the board and to the executive officer that, prior to July 1, 2019, the board not make an enforcement priority any investigation or action against a pharmacist who, in the exercise of his or her professional judgment, determines that it is in the best interest of patient or public health or safety to nonetheless fill such prescription.”*

Due to the impact to all healing arts professions, the Department of Consumer Affairs provided the attached template to use as outreach to all licensees. This information will be posted on the VMB’s website, sent to the California Veterinary Medical Association and disseminated to all VMB email subscribers.

Attachment

1. DCA Template Memo



MEMORANDUM

DATE	January 7, 2019
TO	California Licensed Veterinarians
FROM	Veterinary Medical Board
SUBJECT	Controlled Substance Prescription Form – Serial Number Requirement

Effective January 1, 2019, [Assembly Bill 1753 \(Low, Chapter 479, Statutes of 2018\)](#) requires a unique serialized number to be printed on each controlled substance prescription form in a format approved by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Thus, as of January 1, 2019:

- (1) Each controlled substance prescription form used for prescribing on or after that date must include a unique serialized number in an approved format (Health & Safety Code, section 11162.1, subdivision (a)(15)); and
- (2) No person shall prescribe a controlled substance on or after that date, nor fill, compound, or dispense a prescription for a controlled substance written on or after that date, without this security feature (Health & Safety Code, section 11164, subdivision (a)).

Under the amended statutes, the new serialized controlled substance prescription forms will be the exclusive means to write paper-controlled substance prescriptions as of January 1, 2019, and any prescription written on a controlled substance prescription form that does not bear all of the 15 security features will be presumptively invalid.

The Veterinary Medical Board encourages you to order new forms that comply with the new serial number requirement and utilize e-prescribing when applicable. Visit DOJ’s website [here](#) for more information. Also, attached is a DOJ notice dated December 27, 2018, regarding submission of data into CURES, and a notice dated December 27, 2018, posted by the California State Board of Pharmacy ([here](#)) providing implementation guidance to their licensees.