

EXCERPTS FROM MISSOURI PHARMACY LAW

Missouri pharmacy law is found in Chapter 338 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri. The practice of pharmacy includes participating in drug selection and drug use review, dispensing drugs pursuant to prescription orders, and consulting with patients and health care practitioners about safe and effective use of drugs. Only pharmacists and pharmacy technicians under the supervision of a pharmacist may package, label, and dispense prescriptions to Long Term Care Facility (LTCF) residents from a pharmacy.

Prescribers, such as physicians and dentists, are allowed under pharmacy law to dispense to their patients. Although not specifically provided for in pharmacy law, nurses and physician assistants may dispense medications under the authority of a physician in certain settings as allowed by state law.

Pharmacies that provide services to LTCFs must have specific LTCF policies and procedures that are in compliance with regulations for receiving new prescriptions; packaging, labeling, and dispensing prescriptions; and accepting returned prescriptions.

Pharmacies may receive orders from LTCFs as prescriptions if the order is initiated by a prescriber and entered into the resident's medical record by the prescriber or qualified personnel. Only a pharmacist can change the package or label of a dispensed prescription.

Prescriptions that are returned to the pharmacy cannot be reused unless there is assurance that they have been properly stored, were originally dispensed by that pharmacy to the LTCF, and remain in the original tamper-evident or unit of use packaging.

Pharmacies may operate automated dispensing systems located physically in LTCFs. A pharmacist must review and approve a new medication order before the medication is released from the system storage cabinet. The pharmacy is responsible for stocking, security, record keeping, and procedures for use of the system by facility staff.