

## Drug Dispensation FAQ

January 1, 2023

**Q: What has to be on the label of a drug dispensed by a veterinary practice?**

**A: California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2032.2(b) states:**

All drugs dispensed shall be labeled with the following information:

- (1) Name, address and telephone number of the facility. [Including the name of the prescriber]
- (2) Client's name.
- (3) The species and name, number, or other identifying information for the animal.
- (4) Date dispensed.
- (5) Directions for use, including, if applicable, withdrawal time.
- (6) The manufacturer's trade name of the drug or the generic names, strength (if more than one dosage form exists), and quantity of drug, and the expiration date when established by the manufacturer.
- (7) Name of prescribing veterinarian.

In addition to the requirements set forth above, California Business and Professions Code section 4076(a)(10) also requires:

The condition or purpose for which the drug was prescribed if the condition or purpose is indicated on the prescription. [This section applies if the veterinarian making the order indicates the condition for which the medication is being prescribed.]

**Q: Are childproof containers required when a veterinary practice dispenses medication?**

**A: Yes. The California Pharmacy Act states in Article 12. Prescriber Dispensing, section 4170: Dispensing by Prescriber: Requirements and Restrictions:**

- (a) No prescriber shall dispense drugs or dangerous devices to patients in his or her office or place of practice unless all of the following conditions are met:
  - (1) The dangerous drugs or dangerous devices are dispensed to the prescriber's own patient, and the drugs or dangerous devices are not furnished by a nurse or physician attendant.
  - (2) The dangerous drugs or dangerous devices are necessary in the treatment of the condition for which the prescriber is attending the patient.
  - (3) The prescriber does not keep a pharmacy, open shop, or drugstore, advertised or otherwise, for the retailing of dangerous drugs, dangerous devices, or poisons.
  - (4) The prescriber fulfills all of the labeling requirements imposed upon pharmacists by Section 4076, all of the recordkeeping requirements of this chapter, and all of the packaging requirements of good pharmaceutical practice, **including the use of childproof containers.**

**Q: If I dispense controlled substances to clients, what has to be on the label?**

**A: According to Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 290.5:**

*The label of any drug listed as a "controlled substance" in schedule II, III, or IV of the Federal Controlled Substances Act shall, when dispensed to or for a patient, contain the following warning: "Caution: Federal law prohibits the transfer of this drug to any person other than the patient for whom it was prescribed."*

**Q: Are there limits to how much medication can be dispensed to a patient?**

**A: Yes. California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2032.1(c) states:**

A drug shall not be prescribed for a duration inconsistent with the medical condition of the animal(s) or type of drug prescribed. The veterinarian shall not prescribe a drug for a duration longer than one year from the date the veterinarian examined the animal(s) and prescribed the drug.

For purposes of dispensation, the above rule applies.