

Committee: Westchester County Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Topic: Providing pharmacists with a legitimate method of providing patients with medication so that medication therapy is not interrupted.

Sponsored: Steven Tuckman, MBA, PharmB

Whereas, It is a fundamental principal of pharmacological therapy that patients should not interrupt their medication regimen, and,

Whereas, Patients have been known to either lose or run out of medication, and,

Whereas, Prescribers are not always available to renew or write a new prescription for the patient, and,

Whereas, The 'Good Samaritan' theory generally only applies to situations where there is an immediate risk of injury or death, and,

Whereas, The only guidance pertaining to emergency prescriptions are guidelines related to emergency disaster situation, there is no guidance in NYS Pharmacy Laws, Rules & Regulations as to how pharmacists can assist the affected patients with getting their necessary medications when the prescriber is unavailable and there is a need for medication therapy continuation, and,

Whereas, Dispensing medication to a patient without a prescription is considered unprofessional misconduct, and,

Whereas, A patient may be visiting from another region of the country or globe without ready access to their maintenance medication, and,

Whereas, Pharmacists have the capability of assessing a request for an emergency supply of medication by a patient to determine if there is a real need, therefore, be it

Resolved That:

The New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists encourage the New York State Board of Pharmacy to create a provision within the rules and regulations applying to the practice of pharmacy to allow pharmacists to dispense a limited supply of medication to patients who are unable to obtain a prescription or access their usual source of supply for the purpose of prescription medication therapy continuity.

Date: January 28, 2015

By: _____
Steven Tuckman

Frank Palmieri