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Inland Empire Health Plan

# PHARMACY TIMES

BY IEHP PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

April 7, 2020

## **URGENT NOTICE: Important Information on Patient Access to Prescription Drugs**

Dear IEHP Provider,

IEHP wanted to take the opportunity to remind you about key California state laws intended to help ensure patient access to prescription drugs – including controlled substances – during a declared state of emergency. Due to the extraordinary circumstances created by the current pandemic, California state law allows the following:

- A pharmacist may refill a prescription for a prescription drug or device if the prescriber is unavailable and if, in the pharmacist's professional judgment, failure to refill the prescription might interrupt ongoing care or have a significant adverse impact on the patient's well-being.
- Pharmacists under conditions specified in the law may dispense up to a 90-day supply of a prescription drug other than a controlled substance provided there is a valid prescription that specifies an initial quantity of less than a 90-day supply followed by periodic refills of that amount.
- Pharmacists are authorized to fill a prescription for a controlled substance that does not conform to the controlled substances security form requirements under specific conditions.

IEHP understands that current circumstances can be difficult for our Providers and Members. We ask you to evaluate the risk and patient specific factors and discuss appropriate treatment options.

Additional information may be found on the California Board of Pharmacy website at the following link:

[https://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/licensees/covid19\\_communication.pdf](https://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/licensees/covid19_communication.pdf)

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us at (909) 890-2049 between 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

IEHP Pharmaceutical Services

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