



Department of Consumer Affairs
**Veterinary
Medical Board**

[About Us](#) [Consumers](#) [Applicants](#) [Licensees](#) [Inspections](#) [Enforcements](#) [Forms/Pubs](#)

Updated Prescription Pad Security Requirements

Starting January 1, 2021, pads used to write and fill prescriptions for controlled substances are required to have a 12-character serial number, a corresponding barcode, and [other security features](#) required by Assembly Bill 149.

California-approved security printers have been issuing these prescription pads since the beginning of 2020. Starting January 1, 2021, except for [limited emergency situations](#), pharmacists will be unable to fill a controlled substance prescription that is not on a compliant form.

Prescribers who do not possess these prescription pads are encouraged to place an order as soon as possible from a [Security Prescription Printer](#) approved by the Department of Justice. Doing so will help ensure you receive compliant prescription pads in a timely manner.

Prescriptions issued electronically are not subject to the security features related to paper forms.