

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL VERMONT PRESCRIBERS

On **January 1, 2010**, Rule 9.5 of the Vermont Board of Pharmacy Rules will go into effect. This Rule requires prescriptions to be written so as to:

- (1) prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form;
- (2) prevent erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber; and
- (3) prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms.

Handwritten prescriptions must be written on a tamper-resistant pad.

Computer-generated printed prescriptions must be printed on tamper-resistant paper or other tamper-proof methods as defined by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), including micro-printing and/or printing a "Void" pantograph accompanied by a reverse "Rx," which causes a word such as "Void," "Illegal," or "Copy" to appear when the prescription is photocopied.

Prescriptions written which comply with Medicaid rules will satisfy this Rule.

Prescription form features which will satisfy this Rule could, for example, include the following properties:

- (1) a colored background with a watermark;
- (2) when photocopied, read "Void" in the background;
- (3) have printed on the form the name of the prescriber or hospital identification and batch numbering with serially numbered pages for prescriptions.

The Vermont Medical Society has information about tamper-resistant prescription pad requirements, along with a link to a list of vendors who state that they supply tamper-resistant prescription pads and paper, at this website:

<http://www.vtmd.org/Education/Tamper%20Proof%20Pads/Tamper%20Home%20Page.html>

The complete **new** Board of Pharmacy Rules may be accessed at this website:

<http://vtprofessionals.org/opr1/pharmacists/rules.asp>

If you have any questions about the Board of Pharmacy Rules, you may contact Larry Novins, the Pharmacy Board's Legal Counsel, at **(802) 828-2883**.