



BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION
& INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES
CURES PROGRAM
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May 1, 2019

TO: PUBLIC AND ALL CURES USERS

RE: AB 149 – NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESCRIPTION FORMS

A new California law has been enacted that impacts the production and use of controlled substance prescription forms. Assembly Bill 149 (AB 149), which became effective on March 11, 2019, introduces new form features and a corresponding transition period.

New Form Features

Beginning January 1, 2020, controlled substance prescription forms will require both a serial number and a barcode. Further, as of that date, any serial number will need to be:

- Compliant with all state and federal requirements;
- Compliant with current National Council for Prescription Drug Program (NCPDP) Standards; and,
- Utilizable as a barcode that may be scanned by pharmacists.

Transition Period

A transition period was included within AB 149 to support an orderly shift by prescribers to the new forms. Until January 1, 2021, all of the following controlled substance prescription forms will be valid and accepted:

- Forms valid prior to January 1, 2019, but which do not contain a uniquely serialized number in compliance with Health and Safety Code section 11162.1(a)(15).
- Forms approved by the Department of Justice as of January 1, 2019. This will include the fifteen (15) digit serialized number format approved by the Department of Justice.
- Forms produced with the new features introduced by AB 149, including a compliant serial number and a barcode. Further specifications for these new features will be forthcoming from the Department of Justice.

Beginning January 1, 2021, the only valid and accepted controlled substance prescription forms will be those possessing a serial number and a barcode compliant with the requirements introduced in AB 149.