

Note from the Codifier: The OAH website includes notices and the text of proposed temporary rules as required by G.S. 150B-21.1(a1). Prior to the agency adopting the temporary rule, the agency must hold a public hearing no less than five days after the rule and notice have been published and must accept comments for at least 15 business days. For questions, you may contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 919.431.3000 or email oah.postmaster@oah.nc.gov.

TITLE 21 – OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CHAPTER 46 – BOARD OF PHARMACY

Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.1 that the Board of Pharmacy intends to adopt the rule cited as 21 NCAC 46 .1819.

Codifier of Rules approved this rule as an emergency rule effective April 1, 2020 and received for publication the following notice and proposed temporary rule on March 24, 2020.

Public Hearing:

Date: May 8, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Teleconference line number (408) 215-9377; access code 829 609 515#

Reason for Proposed Temporary Action: On March 10, 2020, the Governor of North Carolina, by issuing Executive Order No. 116, declared a state of emergency to coordinate a response and enact protective measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death. COVID-19, previously unidentified in humans, spreads easily from person to person. Once an outbreak of COVID-19 begins, it is difficult to contain. The World Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services have declared COVID-19 a public health threat and emergency. The search for potential treatments for COVID-19 has caused shortages and threatens to cause further shortages in certain drugs. On March 24, 2020, the North Carolina Secretary of Health and Human Services and the State Health Director requested that the Medical Board and the Board of Pharmacy adopt the COVID-19 Drug Preservation Rule in order to alleviate shortages and ensure that these drugs are available to patients who need them.

Comment Procedures: Comments from the public shall be directed to: Jay Campbell, 6015 Farrington Road, Suite 201, Chapel Hill, NC 27517; fax (919) 246-1056; email jcampbell@ncbop.org. The comment period begins March 24, 2020 and ends May 1, 2020.

SECTION .1800 – PRESCRIPTIONS

21 NCAC 46 .1819 COVID-19 DRUG PRESERVATION RULE

(a) The following drugs are "Restricted Drugs" as that term is used in this Rule:

- (1) Hydroxychloroquine;
- (2) Chloroquine;
- (3) Lopinavir-ritonavir;
- (4) Ribavirin;
- (5) Oseltamivir;
- (6) Darunavir; and
- (7) Azithromycin.

(b) A pharmacist shall fill or refill a prescription for a Restricted Drug only if that prescription bears a written diagnosis from the prescriber consistent with the evidence for its use.

(c) When a patient has been diagnosed with COVID-19, any prescription of a Restricted Drug for the treatment of COVID-19 shall:

- (1) Indicate on the prescription order that the patient has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- (2) Be limited to no more than a 14 day supply; and
- (3) Not be refilled, unless a new prescription order is issued in conformance with this Rule, including not being refilled through an emergency prescription refill.

(d) A pharmacist shall not fill or refill a prescription for a Restricted Drug for the prevention of, or in anticipation of, the contraction of COVID-19 by someone who has not yet been diagnosed.

(e) A prescription for a Restricted Drug may be transmitted orally only if all information required by this Rule is provided to the pharmacy by the physician or the physician's agent, and that information is recorded in writing by the pharmacy, along with the identity of the physician or physician's agent transmitting the prescription.

(f) This Rule does not affect orders for administration to inpatients of health care facilities.

(g) This Rule does not apply to prescriptions for a Restricted Drug for a patient previously established on that particular Restricted Drug on or before March 10, 2020.

Authority G.S. 90-85.6; 90-85.26; 90-85.32.