



State of South Dakota – Board of Pharmacy

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Policy Statement Pharmacist Changing Quantity Dispensed

The Board of Pharmacy recognizes that the pharmacist must exercise professional judgment when dispensing prescriptions. The pharmacist has the responsibility to serve the best interest of the patient provided it is within applicable laws and/or regulations. Patients often benefit when the pharmacist dispenses either a greater or lesser quantity than indicated on the prescription. Dispensing additional quantities of medication up to the total number of dosage units authorized by the prescriber on the original prescription order including refills is often appropriate. Changing the quantity dispensed may lead to enhanced compliance and a potential decrease in healthcare costs.

The following Guidelines shall apply:

- The pharmacist shall use his/her professional judgment in determining appropriate changes in the quantity dispensed.
- The pharmacist shall determine that the change is in the best interest of the patient for reasons of compliance, convenience, or cost savings to the patient.
- The pharmacist shall discuss the change in quantity dispensed and the reasons for the change with the patient.
- *The pharmacist shall obtain approval from the prescriber before changing the quantity dispensed for controlled substances.*

Adopted 6/3/2011