

VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY

Use of Automated Dispensing Drug Systems and Remote Dispensing Systems in Certain Facilities

Pursuant to Va. Code § 54.1-3434.02, “other facilities” authorized by the Board may use automated drug dispensing systems and remote dispensing systems as defined in Va. Code § 54.1-3401 under certain statutory conditions.

The Board interprets “other facilities” that may use an automated drug dispensing system or a remote dispensing system to mean:

- hospice facilities licensed pursuant to Title 32.1 of the Code of Virginia that only use licensed health care professionals authorized in law to administer medications; and
- facilities that (1) hold licensure from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, (2) provide services as an inpatient psychiatric unit, mental health residential treatment facility, partial hospitalization program, inpatient treatment center, or residential detox, and (3) only use licensed health care professionals authorized in law to administer medications.

The Board further interprets “other facilities” that may use a remote dispensing system whereby the patient or a person not licensed to administer medication is intended to administer medication from the system and which must fully comply with the labeling requirements in Va. Code §§ 54.1-3410 and 54.1-3463 and Board regulations to mean the following:

- a pharmacy;
- a facility permitted by the Board as a practitioner of the healing arts to sell controlled substances; and
- a comprehensive harm reduction center providing opioid antagonists licensed by the Virginia Department of Health.