

VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY

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

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-3434.02, hospitals or nursing homes licensed pursuant to Title 32.1, state facilities as defined in § 37.2-100 established pursuant to Title 37.2, facilities as defined in § 37.2-100 that are licensed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and provide site-based crisis stabilization services, and other facilities authorized by the Board may use automated drug dispensing systems and remote dispensing systems.

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;
- 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; and
- facilities within health systems under common ownership with a pharmacy distributing compounded drug products to such facilities in accordance with Virginia Code § 54.1-3410.1(C) that are administered only to patients within the hospital or health system.

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;
- an outpatient medical clinic wherein a provider pharmacy verifies the accuracy of the data entry of the prescription and has obtained a controlled substances registration in the name of the pharmacy at the address of the clinic to operate a remote dispensing system; and
- a comprehensive harm reduction center providing opioid antagonists licensed by the Virginia Department of Health.

The Board does not interpret “other facilities” that may use a remote dispensing system whereby the patient or person not licensed to administer medication is intended to administer medication from the system to include conveyances for mobile medication-assisted treatment programs regulated under Article 9 (12VAC35-105-1821 *et seq.*) of Part VII of the Addiction Medicine Service Requirements.