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PRESCRIPTION REFILL POLICY STATEMENT

BACKGROUND: A.A.C. R4-23-402(A) sets out the requirements that a pharmacist, graduate intern, or pharmacy intern must meet in dispensing a prescription medication from a prescription order. Among other things, a pharmacist, graduate intern, or pharmacy intern is required to verify the legality and pharmaceutical feasibility of dispensing a drug based upon the frequency of refills. See A.A.C. R4-23-402(A)(5)(e). In addition, a pharmacist, graduate intern, or pharmacy intern is required to interpret the prescription order, which includes exercising professional judgment in determining whether to dispense a particular prescription. See A.A.C. R4-23-402(A)(7).

POLICY: It is the opinion of the Board that the requirements of A.A.C. R4-23-402(A) do not prohibit a pharmacist, graduate intern, or pharmacy intern from dispensing multiple refills of a prescription when the prescription is initially filled or refilled as long as this manner of filling is not contrary to the prescriber's directions and the pharmacist, graduate intern, or pharmacy intern complies with all Board statutes and rules in dispensing the medication, including the requirement to exercise professional judgment.

This substantive policy statement is advisory only. A substantive policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this substantive policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties you may petition the agency under A.R.S. § 41-1033 for a review of the statement.