

**147.107 Drug dispensing, supplying, and prescribing — limitations.**

1. A person, other than a pharmacist, physician, dentist, podiatric physician, prescribing psychologist, or veterinarian who dispenses as an incident to the practice of the practitioner's profession, shall not dispense prescription drugs or controlled substances.

2. *a.* A pharmacist, physician, dentist, podiatric physician, or prescribing psychologist who dispenses prescription drugs, including but not limited to controlled substances, for human use, may delegate nonjudgmental dispensing functions to staff assistants only when verification of the accuracy and completeness of the dispensing is determined by the pharmacist or practitioner in the pharmacist's or practitioner's physical presence. However, the physical presence requirement does not apply when a pharmacist or practitioner is utilizing an automated dispensing system; when a pharmacist is utilizing a tech-check-tech program, as defined in [section 155A.3](#); or when a pharmacist is remotely supervising a certified pharmacy technician practicing at a telepharmacy site approved by the board of pharmacy. When using an automated dispensing system the pharmacist or practitioner shall utilize an internal quality control assurance plan that ensures accuracy for dispensing. When using a tech-check-tech program or when remotely supervising a certified pharmacy technician practicing at an approved telepharmacy site, the pharmacist shall utilize an internal quality control assurance plan, in accordance with rules adopted by the board of pharmacy, that ensures accuracy for dispensing. Verification of automated dispensing, tech-check-tech, and telepharmacy practice accuracy and completeness remains the responsibility of the pharmacist or practitioner and shall be determined in accordance with rules adopted by the board of pharmacy, the board of medicine, the dental board, the board of podiatry, and the board of psychology for their respective licensees.

*b.* A dentist, physician, podiatric physician, or prescribing psychologist who dispenses prescription drugs, other than drug samples, pursuant to [this subsection](#), shall report the fact that they dispense prescription drugs with the practitioner's respective board at least biennially.

*c.* A physician, dentist, podiatric physician, or prescribing psychologist who dispenses prescription drugs, other than drug samples, pursuant to [this subsection](#), shall offer to provide the patient with a written prescription that may be dispensed from a pharmacy of the patient's choice or offer to transmit the prescription orally, electronically, or by facsimile in accordance with [section 155A.27](#) to a pharmacy of the patient's choice.

3. A physician assistant or registered nurse may supply, when pharmacist services are not reasonably available or when it is in the best interests of the patient, on the direct order of the supervising physician, a quantity of properly packaged and labeled prescription drugs, controlled substances, or contraceptive devices necessary to complete a course of therapy. However, a remote clinic, staffed by a physician assistant or registered nurse, where pharmacy services are not reasonably available, shall secure the regular advice and consultation of a pharmacist regarding the distribution, storage, and appropriate use of such drugs, substances, and devices.

4. Notwithstanding [subsection 3](#), a physician assistant shall not dispense prescription drugs as an incident to the practice of the supervising physician or the physician assistant, but may supply, when pharmacist services are not reasonably available, or when it is in the best interests of the patient, a quantity of properly packaged and labeled prescription drugs, controlled substances, or medical devices necessary to complete a course of therapy. However, a remote clinic, staffed by a physician assistant, where pharmacy services are not reasonably available, shall secure the regular advice and consultation of a pharmacist regarding the distribution, storage, and appropriate use of such drugs, substances, and devices. Prescription drugs supplied under the provisions of [this subsection](#) shall be supplied for the purpose of accommodating the patient and shall not be sold for more than the cost of the drug and reasonable overhead costs, as they relate to supplying prescription drugs to the patient, and not at a profit to the physician or the physician assistant. If prescription drug supplying authority is delegated by a supervising physician to a physician assistant, a nurse or staff assistant may assist the physician assistant in providing that service. Rules shall be adopted by the board of physician assistants, after consultation with the board of pharmacy, to implement [this subsection](#).

5. Notwithstanding [subsection 1](#) and any other provision of [this section](#) to the contrary, a physician may delegate the function of prescribing drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices to a physician assistant licensed pursuant to [chapter 148C](#). When delegated prescribing occurs, the supervising physician's name shall be used, recorded, or otherwise indicated in connection with each individual prescription so that the individual who dispenses or administers the prescription knows under whose delegated authority the physician assistant is prescribing. Rules relating to the authority of physician assistants to prescribe drugs, controlled substances, and medical devices pursuant to [this subsection](#) shall be adopted by the board of physician assistants, after consultation with the board of medicine and the board of pharmacy. However, the rules shall prohibit the prescribing of schedule II controlled substances which are listed as depressants pursuant to [chapter 124](#).

6. Health care providers shall consider the instructions of the physician assistant to be instructions of the supervising physician if the instructions concern duties delegated to the physician assistant by a supervising physician.

7. Notwithstanding [subsection 1](#), a family planning clinic may dispense birth control drugs and devices upon the order of a physician. [Subsections 2 and 3](#) do not apply to a family planning clinic under [this subsection](#).

8. Notwithstanding [subsection 1](#), but subject to the limitations contained in [subsections 2 and 3](#), a registered nurse who is licensed as an advanced registered nurse practitioner may prescribe substances or devices, including controlled substances or devices, if the nurse is engaged in the practice of a nursing specialty regulated under rules adopted by the board of nursing in consultation with the board of medicine and the board of pharmacy.

9. Notwithstanding [section 147.86](#), a person, including a pharmacist, who violates [this section](#) is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

[84 Acts, ch 1006, §1; 88 Acts, ch 1232, §1; 91 Acts, ch 238, §1; 91 Acts, ch 239, §1; 92 Acts, ch 1163, §37; 92 Acts, ch 1183, §10; 94 Acts, ch 1134, §1; 95 Acts, ch 108, §5; 2002 Acts, ch 1108, §13; 2003 Acts, ch 93, §3, 14; 2003 Acts, ch 108, §39; 2004 Acts, ch 1036, §8; 2004 Acts, ch 1101, §22; 2006 Acts, ch 1094, §1; 2007 Acts, ch 10, §78; 2007 Acts, ch 218, §202; 2008 Acts, ch 1016, §1; 2008 Acts, ch 1088, §43; 2015 Acts, ch 56, §3; 2016 Acts, ch 1093, §1; 2016 Acts, ch 1112, §3](#)

Referred to in [§148G.1](#), [§152B.1](#), [§154.1](#), [§155A.2](#), [§155A.4](#)

Additional persons authorized, see [§154.1](#), [§155A.4](#)

Notwithstanding [subsection 2](#) or [section 155A.33](#), board of pharmacy authorized to approve a pilot or demonstration research project relating to authority of prescription validation and pharmacist ability to provide enhanced patient care; see [2011 Acts, ch 63, §36](#); [2012 Acts, ch 1113, §31](#); [2013 Acts, ch 138, §128](#)

See Code editor's note on simple harmonization at the end of Vol VI

[Subsections 1 and 2](#) amended