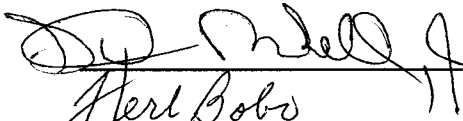
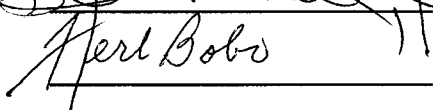


Alabama State Board of Pharmacy

Policy 20100825

In response to the DEA communication below, the Alabama State Board of Pharmacy adopts this day, August 25, 2010, a policy to permit the same changes to schedule II prescriptions, after oral consultation with the prescriber, as are permitted by the DEA on schedule III-V prescriptions.

Please read both FAQ answers carefully. This policy will remain in effect until changed by the Alabama State Board of Pharmacy.

	S.D. (Mike) Mikell, President	<u>8/25/2010</u>	Date
	Herb Bobo, Secretary	<u>8/25/2010</u>	Date

<http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/faq/general.htm>

Question: What changes may a pharmacist make to a prescription written for a controlled substance in schedule II?

Answer: On November 19, 2007, the DEA published in the Federal Register (FR) the Final Rule entitled *Issuance of Multiple Prescriptions for Schedule II Controlled Substances* (72 FR 64921). In the preamble to that Rule, DEA stated that "the essential elements of the [schedule II] prescription written by the practitioner (such as the name of the controlled substance, strength, dosage form, and quantity prescribed)...may not be modified orally."

The instructions contained in the Rule's preamble are in opposition to DEA's previous policy which permitted the same changes a pharmacist may make to schedules III-V controlled substance prescriptions after oral consultation with the prescriber. DEA recognizes the resultant confusion regarding this conflict and plans to resolve this matter through a future rulemaking. Until that time, pharmacists are instructed to adhere to state regulations or policy regarding those changes that a pharmacist may make to a schedule II prescription after oral consultation with the prescriber.

Question: What changes may a pharmacist make to a prescription written for a controlled substance in schedules III-V?

Answer: The pharmacist may add or change the patient's address upon verification. The pharmacist may add or change the dosage form, drug strength, drug quantity, directions for use, or issue date only after consultation with and agreement of the prescribing practitioner. Such consultations and corresponding changes should be noted by the pharmacist on the prescription. Pharmacists and practitioners must comply with any state/local laws, regulations, or policies prohibiting any of these changes to controlled substance prescriptions.

The pharmacist is never permitted to make changes to the patient's name, controlled substance prescribed (except for generic substitution permitted by state law) or the prescriber's signature.

Addendum by ALBOP: Pharmacists in Alabama cannot change the "fill by date" or the "do not fill before date" even after consultation with the prescriber.