

Pharmacist Meal Break Policy and Procedure # 146

If a permitted facility allows their pharmacist to participate in a 30 minute meal break the following guidelines must be in place.

1. Policies and Procedures must be present which define the approval and eligibility, and procedures on how to handle before, during and after the 30 minute meal break.
2. Pharmacist must be in the permitted facility and have a sign posted that the pharmacist is on break.
3. The permitted facility should attempt to have the break occur at a consistent time each day and proper notice given to the public.
4. In permitted facilities with overlapping pharmacists, breaks should be taken while other pharmacist coverage is available.
5. Pharmacist must be available to handle any emergency situations which may arise.
6. Pursuant to the Board of Pharmacy, technicians may perform the following duties while a pharmacist is on break:
 - Assemble prescriptions to be checked by the pharmacist when the break is over.
 - Provide prescriptions to the patients for pick up that have been previously prepared and checked by a pharmacist. A log must be completed for all transactions; new prescriptions and refills that occur while the pharmacist is on break.
 - Receive and assemble prescriptions. The pharmacist must check any prescription(s) before it goes to the patient pursuant to the Board's practice act.

Note: Any Drug Utilization Review Messages must be reviewed and resolved by the pharmacist.

7. When requested by the patient the pharmacist must call the patient within a reasonable timeframe after the prescription is picked up to review any counseling issues that may be appropriate for any prescriptions sold in the absence of a pharmacist.

There should be adequate training of all pharmacy personnel on how to handle 30 minute meal break coverage.