



**BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION
& INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES**
CURES PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 160447
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816

September 24, 2019

TO: PHARMACY AND DIRECT DISPENSE DATA REPORTERS

**RE: CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PRESCRIPTION FORM SERIAL NUMBER DATA
SUBMISSION**

Prescription Form Serial Number

Assembly Bill (AB) 149 (Stats 2019, Ch 4, Cooper), chaptered on March 11, 2019, and codified in Health and Safety Code section 11162.2, delays the requirement for controlled substance prescription forms to include a uniquely serialized number until a date determined by the Department of Justice that is no later than January 1, 2020. Additionally, AB 149 requires the serialized number to be: 1) compliant with all state and federal requirements; 2) utilizable as a barcode that may be scanned by dispensers; and 3) compliant with current National Council for Prescription Drug Program Standards.

The serial number will be labeled on prescription forms for easy identification. The new serial number format is: three alphas, followed by three numerics, followed by one alpha, followed by five numerics.

SERIALIZED NUMBER FORMAT

A A A N N N A N N N N

EXAMPLE SERIALIZED NUMBER

X Y Z 1 2 3 Q 4 3 2 1 0



Notwithstanding any other law, all of the following prescription forms are valid and may be filled, compounded, or dispensed until January 1, 2021.

- A prescription form that was otherwise valid prior to January 1, 2019, i.e. a valid form without a serial number.
- A prescription form that was approved by the Department of Justice as of January 1, 2019, i.e. a valid form with a 15-byte serial number.
- A prescription form that complies with the requirements defined by AB 149, i.e. a valid form with a 12-byte serial number and barcode.

Beginning January 1, 2021, controlled substance prescription forms compliant with the requirements defined by AB 149 will be the only valid form style that may be filled, compounded, or dispensed.

Reporting Serial Number to CURES

The prescription serial number must be reported to CURES in a single field identified as AIR02 in ASAP Version 4.1. AIR02 is an alpha-numeric field.

Per the California Board of Pharmacy (BOP), the BOP will begin assessing for compliance with these new requirements, including reporting of prescription serial number information to CURES, beginning January 1, 2021.

For questions concerning how to report controlled substance prescription data, please contact AAI at CACures@aainh.com or (800) 539-3370. For questions concerning this new requirement, please contact the Security Printer Program at (916) 210-3216 or securityprinter@doj.ca.gov or the BOP at (916) 518-3100 or ask.inspector@dca.ca.gov.