



Prescription Drug Dispensing Permit

Editor: Ali Behnia, DMD

On October 1, 2014, a new law took effect in Maryland that affects all dentists who wish to dispense **only prescription strength home fluoride products, dentin/enamel remineralizing products, and antimicrobial rinses.** As a result of Senate Bill 413, Chapter 496, Laws of Maryland 2014, a new Limited Drug Dispensing Permit will be available for dentists who wish to dispense these products. The Limited Drug Dispensing Permit will be issued by the Dental Board for a 5-year period at a cost of \$75. There are no periodic office inspections and no increased continuing education requirements.

With one limited exception, a dentist who wishes to dispense prescription strength drugs other than home fluoride products, dentin/enamel remineralizing products, and antimicrobial rinses, will be required to obtain a Full Drug Dispensing Permit. The exception is a dentist who wishes to dispense a full course of antibiotics to a pro-bono patient without charge. If there is a charge for the dental service or the antibiotics, the exception does not apply and a Full Drug Dispensing Permit will be required.

A Full Drug Dispensing Permit is issued by the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners. A dentist holding a Full Drug Dispensing Permit is subject to 2 in-office inspections conducted by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Division of Drug Control, over the term of the 5-year permit, as well as a requirement of an additional 10 hours of continuing education as a condition of permit renewal. The cost of the Full Drug Dispensing Permit is \$1075.

Note that a dentist who administers a prescription strength drug to a patient in the dentist's office is not subject to the drug dispensing laws. Additionally, a dentist who dispenses "samples" of prescription strength drugs, or "starter dosages" of prescription strength drugs for a period of 72 hours or less, or prior to obtaining a larger quantity of the drug to complete the therapy, is not required to obtain a drug dispensing permit.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Debbie Welch, Dentist Licensing Coordinator at 410-402-8511 or Ms. Sandra Sage at 410-402-8510.

Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

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