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Due to recent findings of **illegal oral prescriptions**, including those that have a prior authorization, the NYS Office of the Medicaid Inspector General and the NYS Department of Health are reminding pharmacists of their responsibilities to assure the validity of all written, oral, and electronic prescriptions. The drugs that have been verified as fraudulent oral prescriptions include high-cost medications such as: *Ozempic, Trelegy, Eliquis, Humulin R, and Dexcom*. Due to these recent findings, it is especially important for pharmacists to validate the oral prescription if the caller or patient is unknown. The following steps may be useful to verify phoned prescriptions:

- Calling the prescriber's office at a phone number that is externally verified, such as on the practice website;
- Using "Caller ID" on the phone line used to receive prescriptions to validate the number being called from*;
- Ensuring that the prescribed drug, based on quantity, directions for use, etc., is consistent with the patient's medication profile;
- Considering whether the prescribed drug is one with an abuse potential or otherwise has "street value";
- Asking for and documenting proof of identity, if the person picking up the prescription is not known to the pharmacist.
- Other items to watch for include:
 - Is the same provider issuing the same oral prescriptions for multiple patients?
 - Is the quantity prescribed consistent with standard practice and legal limitations?
 - Are either the patient or the provider from out of the area?
 - Is it an appropriate time for the phoned in medication?
 - Is the patient presenting prescriptions from multiple providers?

As you are aware, practitioners are mandated to electronically prescribe both controlled and non-controlled substances in New York State. There are few exceptions to the electronic prescribing mandate, they are listed here:

https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/electronic_prescribing/exceptions_to_e_p.htm

If a forgery is suspected, do not fill the prescription until the legitimacy of the prescription can be validated. If a forgery is confirmed and the patient is a Medicaid or Medicaid Managed Care recipient, please contact the Bureau of Medicaid Fraud Allegations (BMFA) within the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General at (877) 873-7283 or online at [File an Allegation | Office of the Medicaid Inspector General \(ny.gov\)](#). Fraudulent prescriptions for controlled substances must also be reported to the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement by emailing Narcotic@health.ny.gov

* This method should only be relied on in conjunction with other validation methods due to possible phone number spoofing.