I. PURPOSE

To provide a policy concerning circumstances under which residents may or may not complete written prescriptions for a patient to fill at a site outside the hospital.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Programs / Departments. It incorporates the “Prescription Blank Security Procedure, adopted April 14, 2011, and found in the Robert Wood Johnson Medical Group Clinical Care and Operations Policy and Procedure (appended).

III. DEFINITION

Housestaff refers to all interns, residents and sub-specialty residents (fellows) enrolled in A.C.G.M.E. or A.O.A. approved GME programs outside of RUTGERS Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

“Registered resident” refers to a participant in a graduate medical education program in New Jersey who has been granted authorization to engage in the practice of medicine in New Jersey in the first year of a graduate medical education program, subject to limitations.

“Permit holder” refers to a resident authorized to engage in the practice of medicine, as appropriate, while in the second year, or beyond, of a graduate medical education program in NJ, subject to limitations.

“Licensed physician” refers to a physician who has a current license to practice medicine in New Jersey, granted by the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY/REQUIREMENTS

A. A registered resident may engage in the practice of medicine provided that such practice shall be confined to a hospital affiliated with the graduate medical education program and outpatient facilities integrated into the curriculum of the program, under the supervision of licensed physicians. All prescriptions and orders issued by registered residents in the inpatient setting shall be countersigned by either a licensed physician or a permit holder at the minimum upon the patient’s discharge. All prescriptions issued by registered residents in the outpatient setting which are to be filled in a pharmacy outside a licensed health care facility shall be signed by a licensed physician.
B. Prescriptions and orders may be issued by permit holders in the inpatient setting without countersignature. All prescriptions issued by permit holders in the outpatient setting, which are to be filled in a pharmacy outside a licensed health care facility, shall be signed by a licensed physician.

C. Residents may not use signature stamps of licensed physicians to sign prescriptions without the express, formal authorization of the licensed physician.

D. Residents may not make use of blank prescriptions or incomplete prescriptions pre-signed by a licensed physician.

E. A resident who does not comply with the above policy will be subject to disciplinary action by the residency program, the department, the school, or the State of New Jersey, as appropriate to the circumstances of the event.

Refer also to: RUTGERS Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Group Policy “Prescription Blank Security Procedure”

Approved by RUTGERS Robert Wood Johnson Medical School - Graduate Medical Education Committee at its meeting on May 11, 2011.