



South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, and Georgia Emergency Refill Protocols

Laws and Protocols as of September 2018

Healthcare Ready blog on emergency prescription refill protocols:

<https://www.healthcareready.org/blog/state-emergency-refills>

South Carolina

- If the Governor declares a State of Emergency, pharmacists may dispense up to a 30-day refill (if not a controlled substance)
- *Relevant laws:*
 - **SC Code 40-43-170 State of Emergency; prerequisites to emergency refills; dispensing of medications by pharmacists not licensed in this State.**
 - Note: State code on the website is incorrect (refill quantity was increased from 15 days to 30 in May 2018).

North Carolina

- Refills allowed for up to 30 days WITHOUT authorization from the prescriber (21 NCAC 46 .1809)
- Refills allowed for up to 90 days WITH authorization from the prescriber (21 NCAC 46 .1815)
- *Relevant laws:*
 - **21 NCAC 46 .1809 EMERGENCY PRESCRIPTION REFILLS**
 - **21 NCAC 46 .1815 (Page 5 of link) EMERGENCY PRESCRIPTION REFILL DUE TO INTERRUPTION OF MEDICAL SERVICES**

Virginia

- The Board of Pharmacy has waived normal regulations during the state of emergency to allow a one-time early refill for valid refills that are due within the next 7 days WITHOUT authorization from the prescriber.
- *Relevant laws:*
 - **Importance Hurricane Florence Information Virginia Board of Pharmacy**
 - **Code of Virginia 54.1-3307.3. Waiver of requirements; declared disaster or state of emergency.**

Maryland

- In general: a pharmacist can provide 1 refill of a prescription (not exceeding a 14-day supply) WITHOUT authorization. In this case the pharmacist must notify the authorized prescriber of the refill within 72 hours.



- Under state of emergency: pharmacist can provide 1 refill not exceeding a 14-day supply. Pharmacist must notify authorized prescriber of the refill within 7 days.
- *Relevant laws:*
 - **2010 Maryland Code. HEALTH OCCUPATIONS –TITLE 12 - PHARMACISTS AND PHARMACIES, Subtitle 5 - Practice of Pharmacy and Operation of Pharmacies, [Section 12-506](#) - Guidelines for unauthorized refills.**

District of Columbia

- No emergency refills allowed

Georgia

- Under a state of emergency, “a pharmacist may dispense a 72 hour refill supply of a prescription drug repeatedly to a patient, but in total not more than a thirty (30) day supply, without practitioner authorization.”
- *Relevant policy:*
 - [Georgia Model Rules for Public Health Emergencies, Policy #14: Public Emergencies](#)