

Limited Purpose Schedule II Permit (LPSP) for Certified Nurse Practitioners/ Certified Nurse Midwives and Physician Assistants Practicing in Alabama

Beginning January 1, 2015, qualified mid-level practitioners, specifically, certified registered nurse practitioners (CRNPs), certified nurse midwives (CNMs) and physician assistants (PAs), may write prescriptions for limited, practice specific Schedule II prescriptions in the state of Alabama. To do this, they must apply through the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and will receive a Limited Purpose Schedule II Permit number (LPSP). The LPSP number will be the same as their Qualified Alabama Controlled Substance Certificate number (QACSC), which was granted by the Board of Medical Examiners when they received permission to write for C-III through C-V prescriptions. In addition each mid-level practitioner who can write for any control substance has his or her own DEA number.

This new authority is not for all C-II drugs; it is limited to C-II drugs which are appropriate for the type of practice. For example, a CRNP who works for a physician who sees children with a diagnosis of attention deficient disorder, might have permission to write prescriptions for Ritalin. A physician assistant who works with an orthopedic surgeon might have permission to write for hydrocodone, while a PA who works with an oncologist might have permission to write for Fentanyl patches. To verify Alabama licensure status, licensing numbers, scope of practice, a list of CII's allowed to be prescribed, and the name of the collaborating physician check the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners website: www.albme.org. From the home screen, select the 'Look Up a License' quick link and follow the prompts.

The CRNP, CNM or PA must have their DEA number and their QACSC/LPSP number on each prescription they prepare. The same is true for each C-III through C-V they prepare. Since the QACSC is the same number as the LPSP, the only way to know if the person has extended privileges, is to check the website of the Board of Medical Examiners. Be sure they use the CRNP, CNM or PA identifiers so the correct person is identified in PDMP. These mid-level practitioners will be tracked by the collaborating physician using the PDMP database, so it is vital the correct data is submitted. Insurances should recognize and allow for a paid claim using the CRNP, CNM or PA information. Additional information may be found under the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners Administrative Code 540-X-20 Limited Purpose Schedule II Permit <http://www.alabamaadministrativecode.state.al.us/docs/mexam/540-X-20.pdf>

For more information on Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Registration, see Code of Alabama 1975 Title 20, Chapter 2, Article 3A (20-2-60 through 20-2-69). A copy is available on the Alabama State Board of Pharmacy's website under Statutes/Rules tab.

C-II Prescriptions From Out of State Mid-Level Practitioners

Alabama will allow C-II prescriptions to be filled within Alabama from out of state mid-level practitioners only if CRNP, CNM or PA is currently licensed to write C-II prescriptions within the state they practice and hold their own DEA number.

Quick Reference: Requirements for Alabama mid-level practitioners to legally write a CII prescription

1. Must be registered with the Board of Medical Examiners with a DEA # and have the practice registration amended to include CII.
2. Must have a current collaborative practice agreement
3. Must have an active QACSC (Qualified Alabama Control Substance Certificate)—allows writing of C-III through C-V prescriptions.
4. Must have an active LPSP (Limited Purpose Schedule II Permit)—an extension of the QACSC to include practice specific C-II prescriptions. The permit number will be the same as the QACSC certificate number.