



Tips for Using Tamper Resistant Prescription Pads/Paper

A new law signed by the governor in 2009 requires that prescriptions written in Washington be on tamper resistant paper or pads (TRPP) approved by the Washington State Board of Pharmacy. Beginning July 1 this year all medication prescriptions hand delivered to a pharmacy must have the new look.

While the layout will be much the same as previous forms — with two signature lines for prescriber and patient information — the forms must include a seal of approval. Prescribers, pharmacists, and patients can identify approved forms by the seal printed in the lower right-hand corner of the prescription form.

The tamper resistant prescription paper and pads now in use won't comply with the new law. Only board-approved forms are to be used for hard copy given to a patient or patient designee, including prescriptions printed from an electronic medical record system.

A few helpful tips will assure prescribers are using the proper forms in the correct way.

- The seal of approval should always appear in the bottom right corner of the prescription form. A [sample](#) of the seal is on this Web site.
- The seal consists of a mortar and pestle watermark with the Washington State map centered over the top.
- The state is green thermo-chromic ink that changes from green to yellow when exposed to heat or friction. It goes back to green when cooled.
- Don't use tamper-resistant prescription paper or pads when faxing directly to a pharmacy. The fax machine may activate the pantograph, making it appear that the prescription is invalid or void.

It's okay for vendors to provide legitimate requestors with blank stock of the board-approved tamper resistant paper, with the seal, to be printed in the office. Remember, prescribers are always responsible to safeguard prescription pads and paper from theft. It's a good idea to check with your supplier to be sure tamper-resistant prescription paper or pads are board-approved.

Check the [Tamper Resistant Prescription Web page](http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/TRPP/Default.htm) (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/TRPP/Default.htm>) for a list of vendors that have received approval. Third party or intermediary vendors may not be included on this list.