

Security

With some stores going to extended hours where the pharmacy department is open less time than the entire store some questions have arisen regarding proper security. Board Rule 21 NCAC 46.2502(a) states that “The pharmacist-manager shall assure that prescription legend drugs and controlled substances are safe and secure within the pharmacy”.

At their July 2001 meeting the members considered this issue and, by consensus, arrived at the following statement. “When a pharmacist leaves the pharmacy department there must be adequate security which would be a physical barrier to prevent access. A locked door could provide such security but other arrangements may also satisfy the Board’s expectations. Compliance is expected by November 1, 2001.”

When a pharmacist is on a meal break, arrangements must be made for someone, such as a technician, to be in charge and responsible for security during that time. Prescriptions that are already dispensed and placed in a bag and ready to be handed to patients may be picked up but a log must be kept for patient counseling at a later time. [See the Board’s position on technician use.](#)