

ARIZONA RX DRUG MISUSE & ABUSE INITIATIVE AWARENESS. ACTION. OUTCOMES!



Promote Responsible Prescribing and Dispensing Policies and Practices

Policies for Licensed Healthcare Facilities

Did you know?

The Arizona Administrative Code for Licensing of Healthcare Institutions requires each licensed facility to have policies and procedures that protect the health and safety of patients. New rules that went into effect July 1, 2014 added the requirement of policies that cover prescribing a controlled substance to minimize substance abuse by a patient as well as the dispensing, administering, and disposing of medications to include the inventory control and the prevention of diversion.

What facilities are impacted?

These rules are for inpatient behavioral health facilities, hospitals, recovery care centers, behavioral health residential centers, outpatient treatment centers and outpatient surgery centers. Outpatient treatment centers that provide pain management have additional requirements.

What are the additional requirements?

The facility must ensure that a medical practitioner discusses the risks and benefits of using a controlled substance with the patient. The patient's medical record must include their history of alcohol and substance abuse, documentation of the discussion about the risks and benefits of using a controlled substance, and the nature and intensity of the patient's pain.

Who is responsible to making sure the rules are met?

The administrator of the licensed facility is responsible to ensure that these policies and procedures are established, documented, and implemented to protect the health and safety of patients.

How is it enforced?

Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) surveyors review compliance during the facility compliance survey. The administrator will need to be able to demonstrate that the policies are documented and most importantly implemented. The validation of the requirements will be completed through observation, interview, and record review.

More information and the statutory language can be found:

<http://azdhs.gov/ops/oacr/rules/rulemakings/active/recent.php?pg=hci-phase2>