



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
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Andrew G. Beshear
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Eric Friedlander
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Inspector General

November 5, 2021

From: Drug Enforcement and Professional Practices Branch
Re: **Forgery Alert!**

Please be advised that law enforcement is seeing a huge uptick in prescriber identity theft and forged (C-V) promethazine w/ codeine prescriptions across the Commonwealth. These fraudulent prescriptions are being transmitted by all methods: pharmacy drop-off, fax, verbal, and EPCS (via diversion of prescribing credentials).

DEPPB is currently recommending pharmacists **verify all prescriptions for promethazine w/codeine** unless you otherwise know that a practitioner-patient relationship exists. Please use trusted prescriber contact information when verifying a prescription. Do not use the phone number listed on the Rx.

DEPPB would like to remind all pharmacists that Kentucky's [EPCS mandate](#) is in effect. Be advised, if you receive a prescription for a controlled substance pursuant to an EPCS exception or waiver, Kentucky's [security prescription blank requirements](#) still apply. Written and Faxed prescriptions from KY practitioners that are **not issued on a green [KY security blank](#) are not valid**. Pharmacists who distribute controlled substances without a valid prescription may be subject to disciplinary action.

If you seize and confirm a forged prescription, contact local law enforcement as well as DEPPB (502-564-7985). Gather any evidence (Rx, description of person, car, license plate, copy of driver's license, pharmacy video footage, etc.) to present to police. You may tell the individual the prescription is not valid and you cannot fill it. Do not give the Rx back unless you feel threatened. Please alert neighboring pharmacies.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
KY CHFS-OIG DEPPB

Citations: KRS 218A.182, 902 KAR 55:105