



NO PHARMACIST LEFT ALONE

New Community Pharmacy Staffing Regulations

UFCW pharmacists fought for and secured passage of regulations through the California State Board of Pharmacy to further clarify Senate Bill 1442 (Wiener 2018), the No Pharmacist Left Alone Law. These hard-won regulations will ensure that the bill's intent is implemented and enforced at retail pharmacies throughout California.

WHAT DO THE NEW REGULATIONS SAY?

The regulations say the pharmacy employer must:

- Designate the name of the person(s) that is (are) available to assist the pharmacist while the pharmacy is open to the public and working alone
- Ensure the designated person(s) is (are) able to assist the pharmacist within **5 minutes** of the pharmacist's request for assistance
- Ensure the designated person(s) is (are) able to perform the duties of non-licensed pharmacy personnel (as specified in section 1793.3 of the California Business and Professions Code)
- Ensure the designated person(s) has (have) completed a background check consistent with federal requirements for pharmacy employees with access to controlled substances

The pharmacy must maintain policies and procedures for:

- The pharmacist on duty to be able to identify the person(s) designated as available to assist the pharmacist
- The required criteria and training for the designated person(s)
- The process for the pharmacist to request assistance and to document the response time between the request and arrival of the designated person to the pharmacy
- All pharmacy employees and designated person(s) must read and sign a copy of the policies and procedures, and the policies and procedures must be in a readily available format for employees to access

WHO DO THE REGULATIONS APPLY TO?

The regulations apply to chain retail pharmacies or pharmacies located in chain retail establishments like grocery stores.

WHEN ARE THE REGULATIONS EFFECTIVE?

The regulations became effective on September 15, 2020.

If you have any questions about these new regulations, please contact Jassy Grewal at jassy@ufcwstatescouncil.org.