



Alabama

State-Specific Controlled Substance Requirements

Updated 6/21/23

Biennial Inventory (DEA):	<p>A physical inventory of all controlled substances on hand must be taken at least every <u>two years</u>. The biennial inventory may be taken on any date, which is within two years of the previous biennial or initial inventory. [21 CFR 1304.11]</p> <p>NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate biennial inventories must be completed for schedule II and schedule III-V controlled substances. Biennials may be conducted more frequently than every two years. As a recommendation, conduct your DEA biennial inventory at the same time you conduct your annual inventory for the state. Biennial inventories must be conducted by the DEA registrant, or their designee who has been granted Power of Attorney, along with an authorized witness. <p>Biennial inventories must indicate whether they are conducted at the start or close of business.</p>
Annual Inventory (AL):	<p>An initial inventory of all controlled substances on hand and a new inventory of all stocks of controlled substances on hand shall be taken on January 15th or the alternative fixed date approved by the Board of each year following the date the initial inventory was taken.</p> <p>The annual inventory may be taken on any fixed date which does not vary by more than six (6) months from the annual date that would otherwise apply. If the registrant elects to take the annual inventory on another fixed date, he must first petition the Board for approval of the alternative fixed date on which the annual inventory will be taken.</p> <p>Ala. Admin. Code r. 680-X-3-.08</p>
CE:	<p><u>Veterinarian:</u> (20) CE hours annually before becoming eligible for license renewal. 10 hours allowed online through completion of RACE (Registry of Approved Continuing Education) approved course.</p> <p>minimum 16 hours scientific, maximum 4 hours non-medical/practice management</p> <p><u>Registered Veterinary Technicians:</u> 8 CE hours annually before becoming eligible for license renewal.</p> <p>Required Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 General Hours 6 hours minimum of scientific programs approved by the Board <p>Note: All 8 hours may be obtained online through completion of RACE – approved courses.</p> <p>Alabama does not require any specific controlled substance CE at this time.</p> <p>Licenseses are required to maintain personal CME records for three years following the year in which the CME was earned.</p>
Compounding:	<p>"8.2.10 Compounding of a controlled substance by a practitioner is permitted as long as the United States Pharmacopoeia (USP) 795 and 797 standards and guidelines are followed." 24 Del. Admin. Code § 8.0</p> <p><u>Compounding</u> is <u>any manipulation</u> of a drug beyond that stipulated on the drug label. Veterinary drugs should only be compounded based on a licensed veterinarian's prescription, and to meet the medical needs of a specific patient. Manipulation might include mixing, diluting, concentrating, flavoring, or changing a drug's dosage form. Examples of compounding include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixing two injectable drugs in the same syringe Creating an oral suspension from crushed tablets or an injectable solution Adding flavoring to a commercially available drug



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a transdermal gel for a drug typically taken through other routes • Mixing two solutions for instilling into the ear <p><u>AL Compounding:</u> COMPOUNDING. The preparation, mixing, assembling, packaging, and labeling of a drug or device as the result of a licensed practitioner's prescription drug order or initiative based on the practitioner/patient/pharmacist relationship in the course of professional practice.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Compounding may also be for the purpose of, or as incident to, research, teaching, or chemical analysis. b. Compounding includes the preparation of drugs or devices in anticipation of prescription drug orders based on routine, regularly observed prescribing patterns. c. Reconstitution of commercial products is not considered compounding for purposes of this article. <p>Vials that are labeled single- dose/use, are only to be used once for an individual patient.</p> <p>Ala. Code § 34-23-150</p>
<p>Dispensing:</p>	<p>Alabama does not limit the quantity of controlled substances dispensed.</p> <p>(1) A licensed veterinarian shall not prescribe or dispense, deliver or order delivered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Any drug or medicinal agent carrying the legend "Federal (USFDA) law restricts this drug to the use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian" to be administered to animals with which he or she has not established a veterinary-client-patient relationship, or as defined by the United States Food and Drug Administration. (b) Any controlled substance as defined by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration without first having established a veterinary-client-patient relationship by having personally examined the individual animal, herd or representative segment or consignment lot thereof and determined that such controlled substance is therapeutically indicated following said examination. <p>Ala. Admin. Code r. 930-X-1-.11</p> <p><u>Labeling:</u> Unless otherwise indicated by the practitioner, the prescription label on the dispensing container shall indicate the actual drug product dispensed, either the brand name, or if none, the generic name, and the name of the manufacturer or a reasonable abbreviation of the name of the manufacturer.</p> <p>Code of Ala. §34-23-8</p>
<p>Diversion Reporting:</p>	<p>notify the Field Division Office DEA and the Alabama State Board of Pharmacy of the theft or significant loss of any controlled substances upon discovery of such loss of theft. The pharmacy shall also complete DEA form, "Report of Theft or Loss of Controlled Substances," which may be obtained from the Board of Pharmacy or DEA office.</p> <p>(2) Four copies must be made of the report. The facility shall keep a duplicate copy for its records, forward two copies, the original and duplicate copy, to the Field Division Office of DEA, and provide one duplicate copy of the Alabama State Board of Pharmacy.</p> <p>Ala. Admin. Code r. 680-X-3-.07</p>
<p>Euthanasia:</p>	<p>(c) Euthanasia shall be performed only by a licensed veterinarian or an employee or agent of a facility approved by the board that is operated for the collection and care of stray, neglected, abandoned, or unwanted animals, provided the employee or agent has successfully completed a euthanasia technician certification course.</p> <p>Ala. Code § 34-29-131</p>
<p>Ownership:</p>	<p>non-veterinarian practice ownership is restricted.</p>



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Power of Attorney:	While Alabama does not technically require you to get your POA notarized, notarization is very strongly recommended. Under Alabama law, when you sign your POA in the presence of a notary public, your signature is presumed to be genuine—meaning your POA is more ironclad.
Prescribing:	<p>Board Rule 540-X-4-.06 states the requirements for all prescriptions for controlled substances, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dated as of, and signed on, the day when issued. • Full name and address of the patient. • Drug name, strength, dosage form, and quantity. • When oral orders are not permitted (Schedule II), written with ink or printed and manually signed (non-electronic, handwritten signature) or transmitted via an approved e-prescribing platform. • Employee may communicate prescription to pharmacy. • Two signature lines with “dispense as written” and “product selection permitted” below. • No person may sign in the place of or on behalf of the physician. • It is improper under any circumstance to pre-sign blank prescriptions and make them available to employees or support personnel. • It is improper to utilize blank prescriptions upon which the signature has been mechanically or photostatically reproduced. <p><u>Signing prescriptions:</u> In Alabama, a prescription which is printed or prepared in the prescriber's office for a controlled drug may NOT have a signature from the printer, or an electronic signature. All prepared or hard copy prescriptions for controlled substances must have a “wet” signature. This means the prescription must be signed manually.</p> <p>21 CFR §1306.05(d) Code of Ala. §34-23-8(4)</p> <p>a pharmacist may change or add the dosage form, drug strength, drug quantity, direction for use, or issue date only after consultation with and agreement of the prescribing practitioner. Dates for prescriptions which are dated for later fill may not be changed even after consultation with and permission of the prescribing physician.</p> <p>ALBOP Policy 20100825</p> <p><u>Labeling:</u> The following is required to be on the label of a prescription:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name and address of the dispensing pharmacy • Serial number of the prescription (Prescription Number) • Date of the prescription • Name of the prescriber • Name of the patient • Name and strength of the drug • Directions for use • Appropriate cautionary statements, such as “do not take with food” or “shake well” <p>21 CFR 1306.24 Code of Ala. 34-23-8(5) Ala. Admin. Code 680-X-2-.13</p> <p><u>Writing Prescriptions:</u> A prescription must be written in ink or indelible pencil or typewritten and must be manually signed by the practitioner. An individual may be designated by the practitioner to prepare the prescriptions for his/her signature. The practitioner is responsible for making sure that the prescription conforms in all essential respects to the law and regulation.</p> <p>21 CFR §1306.05</p>



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	<p><u>Faxed Prescriptions:</u> A written prescription for a Schedule II, which has been signed by the practitioner, may be faxed to a pharmacy provided that the original manually signed prescription is presented to the pharmacist for review prior to the actual dispensing of the controlled substance. Ala. Admin. Code 680-X-3-.10</p> <p><u>E-prescribing:</u> Alabama does not currently have an e-prescribing mandate. In Alabama, a prescription which is printed or prepared in the prescriber's office for a controlled drug may NOT have a signature from the printer, or an electronic signature. All prepared or hard copy prescriptions for controlled substances must have a "wet" signature. This means the prescription must be signed manually. 21 CFR §1306.05(d) Code of Ala. §34-23-8(4)</p> <p>In Alabama, a prescription which is printed or prepared in the prescriber's office for a controlled drug may NOT have a signature from the printer, or an electronic signature. <u>All prepared or hard copy prescriptions for controlled substances must have a "wet" signature. This means the prescription must be signed manually.</u> 21 CFR §1306.05(d) Code of Ala. §34-23-8(4)</p> <p><u>Emergency situations:</u> In emergency situations, a prescription for a Schedule II controlled substance may be phoned-in to the pharmacy for a resident of a long-term care facility, a patient receiving hospice services, or a patient receiving home healthcare services. The prescriber must follow up with a written prescription sent to the pharmacy within 7 days. (States may require that the prescription be sent to the pharmacist in a shorter time frame.) Prescriptions for Schedule III through V controlled substances may be written or transmitted orally or by fax. Code of Ala. §20-2-58(g)</p> <p><u>Expiration dates for prescriptions:</u> There is no expiration date for prescriptions written for schedule II controlled substances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schedule III-IV controlled substances: Prescriptions for schedule III-IV controlled substances expire 6 months after the written date on the prescription or after 5 refills, whichever comes first. 21 CFR §1306.22 ▪ Schedule V controlled substances: There is no expiration date for prescriptions written for schedule V controlled substances. 21 CFR §1306.22 ▪ EXCEPTION: The partial filling of a Schedule V does subject the prescription to a six-month limitation. 21 CFR §1306.23
<p>PDMP:</p>	<p>"All veterinarians must comply with Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) requirements." Ala. Admin. Code r. 930-X-1-.11</p> <p>Per the Alabama Uniform Controlled Substances Act, and under the Code of Alabama, 1975, § 20-2-210, et seq., the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) was authorized to establish, create, and maintain a controlled substances prescription database program. This law requires anyone who dispenses Class II, III, IV, V controlled substances to report daily the dispensing of these drugs to the database.</p>
<p>Premises Permit:</p>	<p>(1) All veterinary facilities must acquire a premises permit. The owner and all associate veterinarians must be listed on the premises permit.</p>



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	<p>(2) All licensed veterinarians owning or associated with the premises shall be individually responsible for management of the premises. Short term relief veterinarians without management responsibilities will not be required to be listed on the premises permit.</p> <p>(3) Premises permits must be displayed within the practice in such a manner as to be easily viewed by the public.</p> <p>All licensed veterinarians owning or associated with the premises shall be individually responsible for management of the premises. Short term relief veterinarians without management responsibilities will not be required to be listed on the premises permit.</p> <p>(3) Premises permits must be displayed within the practice in such a manner as to be easily viewed by the public.</p> <p>Ala. Admin. Code r. 930-X-1-.31</p>
<p>Recordkeeping:</p>	<p>Patient records must be "kept for a minimum of three years following the last office visit or discharge of the animal from the veterinary facility." Ala. Admin. Code r. 930-X-1-.31.01</p> <p>Controlled substance records must be kept for two years</p>
<p>State-Scheduled CS's:</p>	<p>Schedule III controlled substances and also reportable to the PDMP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Codeine-containing cough syrups ▪ Butalbital & Butalbital containing products are a schedule III controlled substance <p>Schedule V controlled substance and also reportable to the PDMP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gabapentin
<p>State CS License:</p>	<p>Alabama does require DEA registrant practitioners to obtain a second state controlled substance license, to practice in Alabama prior to obtaining a DEA registration.</p> <p>To distribute, prescribe, or dispense any controlled substance in Alabama, physicians must obtain annually an Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate (ACSC).</p> <p>(1) All licensed veterinarians who handle controlled substances must register annually with the State Board and get a state controlled substance number from the Board. In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Such number must be on all of his or her prescriptions. (b) A controlled substance fee is due at the time of the annual license renewal. (c) The controlled substance fee will not exceed \$50.00 annually. (d) Controlled substance violations will be prosecuted as prescribed by law. <p>(2) This Rule is promulgated by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners pursuant to Alabama Act No. 699 and Alabama Act No. 1407, the Controlled Substances Act of 1976, as amended. RULE 930-X-1-.13.</p>
<p>Supervision:</p>	<p><u>DIRECT SUPERVISION.</u> The supervising veterinarian has initially examined the animal and will examine at other times as acceptable veterinary medical practice requires, consistent with the particular delegated animal health care task. The supervising veterinarian is on the premises and is quickly and easily available.</p> <p><u>IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION.</u> The supervising veterinarian is on the premises and in audible or visual range of the animal patient and the person treating the patient.</p> <p><u>INDIRECT SUPERVISION.</u> The supervising veterinarian has examined the animal and has given written or oral instructions for the treatment of the animal while the supervising veterinarian is away from the premises.</p> <p>AL Code § 34-29-61 (2018)</p>



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Telemedicine:	Telemedicine is defined by where the owner/animal is, regardless of where the veterinarian is (i.e. a vet must be licensed in AL and have VCPR to treat an animal in AL).
Veterinary Professional License:	<p>All licenses shall expire annually on December 31 of each year but may be renewed by application to the board showing fulfillment of continuing education requirements and payment of a renewal fee established and published by the board. The continuation of practice after the expiration of a license shall be in violation of this article and be cause for suspension of the license. The executive director shall send a reminder of expiration 30 days prior to expiration by first class mail and issue a new display license to all persons registering under this article. Failure to renew a license on or before January 1 of each year shall prompt the executive director to send a final notice of expiration by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last address of the veterinarian known to the board and a late penalty shall be assessed and the license shall be suspended for non-renewal. A person may renew a license suspended for non-renewal at any time within two years, upon application, payment of the prescribed renewal fee and a late penalty fee per year for late renewals, provided the applicant is otherwise eligible for renewal. The board may renew a license without fulfillment of the continuing education requirement to any nonpracticing veterinarian over 70 years old or grant extensions or exemptions of continuing education requirements for veterinarians with extenuating medical or other circumstances.</p> <p>AL Code § 34-29-75 (2019)</p> <p>Each veterinarian shall have posted or displayed in his or her office or place of employment in full view of his or her clients, his or her original Alabama license to practice veterinary medicine, current year's display license and premise permit. Alabama State Controlled Substance Registration shall be posted in or near controlled substance cabinet or safe for inspection by state and federal representatives.</p> <p>Ala. Admin. Code r. 930-X-5</p>
VCPR:	<p><u>Veterinary-client-patient relationship</u> as used in this rule shall be defined as a relationship created by actual examination by the veterinarian of the animal or a representative segment of a consignment or herd.</p> <p>(3) Any veterinarian who violates this rule shall be guilty of unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this section.</p> <p>Ala. Admin. Code r. 930-X-1-.11</p> <p>A VCPR must be established in-person.</p> <p>The scope of the VCPR is limited to one veterinarian.</p>
Wholesale Veterinary Drug Distributor's Permit	<p>"All veterinarians providing veterinary drugs and medicines for resale to veterinary practitioners and other veterinary wholesalers must obtain an Alabama Board of Pharmacy's Wholesale Veterinary Drug Distributor's Permit." Ala. Admin. Code r. 930-X-1-.11</p>



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Information and Resources

FEDERAL:

Drug Enforcement Administration, New Orleans Division
3838 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 1800
Three Lakeway Center
New Orleans, LA
Phone: (504) 840-1100

Birmingham Office

920 18th Street N
Birmingham, AL 35203
Phone: (205) 321-1300

Montgomery Office

2350 Fairlane Drive
Montgomery, AL 36116

Mobile Office

900 Western America Drive, #501
Mobile, AL 36609
Phone: (251) 441-5831

Federal Law: www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov

Controlled Substances Act: [21 USC 801 – 904](#)

Code of Federal Regulations: [21 CFR Part 1300 – 1399](#)

NDC drug: www.fda.gov/Drugs/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/UCM070829

Diversion Control Division: <https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules/>

STATE:

Alabama State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners website: <https://asbvme.alabama.gov>

Alabama Board of Pharmacy website: <https://albop.com>