

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
REGULATION & LICENSING

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October 31, 2001

Lou Falligant, PA-C
Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants
330 East Lakeside Street, P.O. Box 1109
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Mr. Falligant:

In your letter of October 26, 2001, you seek clarification of the manner in which a physician assistant is required to proceed in authorizing refills of a prescription that were not a part of the original prescription order. More specifically, you ask whether the original countersignature of the supervising physician would cover such refills, or whether a new physician countersignature is required.

As you're aware, § Med 8.08(2)(a), Wis. Admin. Code, requires that the physician assistant issue a prescription order only in patient situations specified and described in established written guidelines. It would be my opinion that if the written guidelines provide for situations in which the physician assistant is authorized to refill an existing prescription, then the refill would not be considered to be a new prescription and a new physician countersignature would therefore not be required.

I hope the foregoing adequately responds to your inquiry.

Sincerely,



Wayne R. Austin
Attorney, Office of Board Legal Services