

# PHARMACON<sup>®</sup>



*Division of MRR Consulting Inc.  
Pharmaceutical Consultants to Health Care Institutions*

RICHARD A. ZELKOWITZ  
PRESIDENT  
Cell (917) 834-7220

WILLIAM J. LYONS  
VICE PRESIDENT  
Cell (914) 755-9957

## **e-Prescribing Waiver Process**

New York State Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement has released a waiver application process for Long Term Care institutions for the March 27 2016 e-Prescribing mandate.

The waiver process is available online at the New York State Health Commerce System:

[https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/public/hcs\\_login.html](https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/public/hcs_login.html)

If you do not already have a login and password for the Health Commerce System (HCS) site you will have to create one.

The New York State Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement has provided a document with information to complete the application which is available at:

<https://www.hanys.org/communications/elerts/attachments/152b2b84-7501-111-e-prescribing-waiver-instructions-december-2015.pdf>

Institutions are urged to complete the waiver application to show that for the reasons below this system is not feasible in long term care. The waiver reason should be "Other Exceptional Circumstances". These circumstances include delay of availability of medications which may result in hospitalization of, or harm to the residents. This is especially true in the case of newly admitted residents, as only the physician can submit the prescription, as employees of the institution are not considered agents of the physician. Since long term care institutions do not have twenty-four hour on-site physician coverage, there will surely be a delay in submitting prescriptions. This is a patient safety issue, which should be clearly elucidated on the application. It should also be stated that the current practices in place at your institution are safely providing medications to the residents without excessive delay.

Do not hesitate to contact us for any additional information.