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# CHAIRMAN'S MEMORANDUM

## NO. 14-2000 NOVEMBER 29, 2000

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**TO: SHERIFFS, COMMISSIONERS OF CORRECTION, JAIL ADMINISTRATORS,  
MEDICAL COORDINATORS**

**RE: Blister Packs Cannot be Relabeled for Reuse in New York State**

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In the past year, it has come to the attention of the Commission that county correctional facility health care vendor administrators and vendor pharmacies have directed nursing staff to relabel prescription blister packs or unit dose packages of inmates discharged from the facility for reuse by other inmates.

**This is an illegal practice of both nursing and pharmacy in New York State, and all pharmacy vendors and/or health care providers, even if they are headquartered outside New York State, must follow the regulations of the NYS Boards of Nursing and Pharmacy when providing services in the State of New York.**

In an effort to clarify the issue, please find attached an announcement of the official position of the Boards of Nursing and Pharmacy of New York State.

In some jurisdictions, relabeling appears to be a method of saving dollars because of the limits of reimbursement for returned medications. Jail administrators should be knowledgeable, during contract negotiations, of the dollar percentage of reimbursement for medications that are returned for credit.

In summary, the Boards of Nursing and Pharmacy of New York State and the State Commission of Correction expect jail administrators, nurse administrators, health services administrators, medical contract vendors and pharmacy vendors in correctional facilities to comply with the regulations of New York State and assure health care professionals are in compliance with licensure and/or certification to practice.

If there are any questions regarding this information, please contact Milene Sower, PhD, RN, Executive Secretary of the Board of Nursing at 518-474-3843 or Bill Gaunay, RN, MS, CCHP at the State Commission of Correction at 518-485-2482.

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**ALAN J. CROCE**  
**CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONER**

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