

Health Care Clinic Establishment Permit  
Regulated by Drugs, Devices and Cosmetics  
Chapter 499. Florida Statutes

- Effective January 1, 2009, the Board of Pharmacy and Drugs, Devices, and Cosmetics Program will begin issuing Health Care Clinic Establishment (HCCE) permits, in accordance with section 499.01 (2)(t), *Florida Statutes* (F.S.).
- The Department of Health (department) will adopt rules and forms for the HCCE permit application beginning at the end of September 2008.
- An HCCE permit will be required for the purchase of prescription drugs by a group practice (place of business at one general physical location owned and operated by a professional corporation or professional limited liability company described in chapter 621, F.S., or a corporation that employs a veterinarian as a qualifying practitioner) that wishes to purchase and own prescription drugs.
- A HCCE establishment must designate a "qualifying practitioner" who will be responsible for complying with all legal and regulatory requirements related to the purchase, recordkeeping, storage, and handling of the prescription drugs. A "qualifying practitioner" is a licensed health care practitioner defined in section 456.001, F.S., or a veterinarian licensed by chapter 474, F.S., who is authorized to prescribe and administer a prescription drug.
- The qualifying practitioner must be the practitioner whose name, establishment address, and license number is used on all distribution documents (invoices, shipping, etc.) for the prescription drugs purchased or returned by the HCCE.
- The qualifying practitioner and HCCE must notify the department within 10 days of any changes to the designated qualifying practitioner.
- The purchase of prescription drugs is prohibited during any time the establishment does not have a qualifying practitioner on record with the department.
- An HCCE permit is not a pharmacy permit. An HCCE that meets the criteria of a modified class II institutional pharmacy under section 465.019, F.S., is not eligible for the HCCE permit.
- A qualifying practitioner is not prohibited from purchasing prescription drugs under his/her individual license.
- Medical practitioners licensed under chapter 456, F.S., are not authorized by this permit to dispense prescription drugs. Practitioners who dispense for fee or remuneration must register with their respective boards as dispensing practitioners. Registered dispensing practitioners are inspected annually by the department.
- The HCCE permit does not authorize the purchase of controlled substances