

Dear Physician:

By now you are probably aware that all hydrocodone products will be moved from schedule III to schedule II effective October 6, 2014. The purpose of this letter is to outline the implications of this change. The entire text of the law, changes and rationale can be found at www.dea.gov. Of course, we are not legal experts, but the following is how we interpret the changes. We are under a lot of scrutiny and will need to follow the law as written to protect both of us.

1. All prescriptions must be handwritten. They can be computer generated, but must have the physician's original hand written signature. Faxed or telephoned prescriptions are not valid.
2. No refills will be allowed on the prescriptions.
3. As for other CII's, it is permissible to write 3 separate prescriptions. The proper procedure is to date the prescription the day that you are actually writing it, then notate "Do not fill until _____ for the other 2 prescriptions. Please note that if you specify "do not fill for 30 days", we will not fill the next prescription for exactly 30 days after the date written and the patient may run out exactly on that day.
4. Prescriptions expire 90 days after the date written.
5. Prescriptions are limited to a 30 day supply in the state of Illinois.
6. Medicaid prescriptions must be written on tamper resistant paper (would be a good idea for all CII's)
7. Nurse practitioners and physicians are allowed to write for oral and transdermal CII's under the protocol of the physician. Refer to the Controlled Substance Act for more information.
8. CII's can be faxed in to the pharmacy, but the original handwritten script must be presented prior to pick up by the patient.
9. Emergency phone in prescriptions are allowed but with several stipulations:
 - the emergency supply is limited to 7 days
 - the covering prescription must be postmarked or delivered to the pharmacy to cover the emergency fill within 7 days.
10. Partial fills are permissible but will invalidate the remainder of the prescription.
11. Prescriptions for nursing home or hospice patients may be faxed to the pharmacy without follow up with a written prescription. For hospice patients, you must indicate "Hospice Patient" on the prescription.
12. Please note that all current prescriptions that have refills will become invalid on October 5th due to this scheduling change.

Please call us anytime with any questions. We want to work with you to ensure that Legitimate patients continue to receive their pain medications, while protecting our Interests at the same time.

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