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Re: Notification of the Rescheduling of Hydrocodone

Effective October 6, 2014, all Hydrocodone Combination Products are rescheduled as a Schedule II Controlled Dangerous Substance in the State of New Jersey based on the recent federal Drug Enforcement Agency ("DEA") Final Rule.

Starting on October 6, 2014 and in accordance with New Jersey Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, N.J.S.A. 24:21-15, prescriptions issued by a practitioner for hydrocodone combination products (HCP) are subject to the same restrictions as all other Schedule II CDS medications.

We take this opportunity to remind you of some of the restrictions on Schedule II CDS prescriptions:

- HCPs may only be prescribed by a practitioner with a written prescription or an electronic prescribing system, that is compliant with state and federal controlled substance rules;
- Prescriptions for HCPs cannot be issued via the telephone or facsimile to a pharmacy; and
- No prescription for a Schedule II substance may be refilled.

Patients may need to be advised that prescriptions written/issued prior to October 6, 2014 cannot be refilled by a pharmacy.

A practitioner shall not authorize a quantity of Schedule II CDS medication calculated to exceed 120 dosage units or a 30-day supply, whichever is less. Any exemptions that are allowed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:35-7.6 are unchanged and remain in effect.

All HCPs prescriptions presented at a New Jersey pharmacy will be subject to the Schedule II CDS prescription dispensing rules as defined in N.J.A.C. 13:45H-7.8 – 7.12.

Any practitioner who is not authorized by state or federal rules, to prescribe Schedule II CDS medication, cannot prescribe HCPs starting on October 6, 2014.

Due to the Schedule II CDS restrictions, a practitioner/pharmacy may want to consider the effect the changes may have on prescribing or dispensing software systems and storage requirements for Schedule II medication in a pharmacy or medical practice.

For additional information, please visit:

Drug Enforcement Agency: www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov

The Drug Control Unit: www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/drug

Board of Pharmacy: www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/pharm