



## Hydrocodone & Hydrocodone Combination Drugs Classification Change

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has announced that hydrocodone and hydrocodone combination products will be reclassified from Schedule III to Schedule II effective October 6, 2014.

As of October 6, 2014, hydrocodone and hydrocodone combination prescriptions and refills will no longer be able to be processed electronically or via telephone. Prescriptions will require a physician signature and will be required to be written on a prescription pad.

What does this mean for you?

- These prescriptions will not have pre-authorized refills
- You will need to obtain all prescriptions for these medications in person from your physician; this means you may need to schedule an appointment with your physician for a prescription refill.
- Prescriptions will only be written during normal business hours, Monday through Friday.
- Prescriptions will not be written on weekends or holidays when the office is closed.

How can you help?

- Plan ahead; don't let your prescription run out on a holiday or weekend
- Don't wait until you are out of medication to call your physician
- We encourage you to discuss this change with your physician and discuss alternative pain medication options that may be authorized electronically or by telephone.

Refills for prescriptions for hydrocodone and combination products written and approved prior to October 6, 2014 may be dispensed by your pharmacist from that prescription until April 8, 2015.

*We understand the difficulty this will cause our patients in obtaining these types of prescriptions; however, we are mandated to comply with the new DEA regulations.*

Should you have additional questions feel free to visit:

[http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/fed\\_regs/rules/2014/fr0227.htm](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/fed_regs/rules/2014/fr0227.htm) or <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-08-22/pdf/2014-19922.pdf>