



U. S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
8701 Morrisette Drive
Springfield, Virginia 22152

www.dea.gov

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Dear Colleague:

On November 19, 2007, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) published in the Federal Register (FR) the Final Rule entitled *Issuance of Multiple Prescriptions for Schedule II Controlled Substances* (72 FR 64921). In the preamble to that Rule, DEA stated that “the essential elements of the [schedule II] prescription written by the practitioner (such as the name of the controlled substance, strength, dosage form, and quantity prescribed) . . . may not be modified orally.”

The instructions contained in the Rule’s preamble are in opposition to policy posted on the DEA Diversion website regarding changes a pharmacist may make to a schedule II prescription after oral consultation with the prescriber. In a Question and Answer section, the website instructed that a “pharmacist may change or add the dosage form, drug strength, drug quantity, directions for use, or issue date only after consultation with and agreement of the prescribing practitioner.”

DEA recognizes the resultant confusion regarding this conflict and plans to resolve this matter through a future rulemaking. Until that time, pharmacists are instructed to adhere to state regulations or policy regarding those changes that a pharmacist may make to a schedule II prescription after oral consultation with the prescriber.

Questions regarding this correspondence may be directed to the Liaison and Policy Section, Office of Diversion Control, DEA at (202) 307-7297.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Rannazzisi".

Joseph T. Rannazzisi
Deputy Assistant Administrator/
Deputy Chief of Operations
Office of Diversion Control