



**U. S. Department of Justice**  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
8701 Morrissette Drive  
Springfield, VA 22152

[www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov)

March 26, 2010

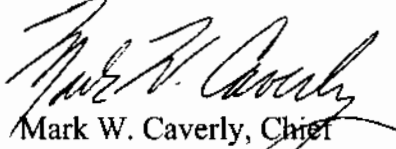
Dear Colleague,

On March 24, 2010, the Office of the Federal Register made available for public inspection an Interim Final Rule with Request for Comment from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) entitled "Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances" [Docket No. DEA-218, RIN 1117-AA61]. The rule may be viewed at [www.federalregister.gov/inspection.aspx](http://www.federalregister.gov/inspection.aspx)

The rule will be published in the Federal Register on March 31, 2010. The rule will become effective June 1, 2010.

The rule revised DEA regulations to provide practitioners with the option of writing prescriptions for controlled substances electronically. The regulations will also permit pharmacies to receive, dispense, and archive these electronic prescriptions. These regulations are an addition to, not a replacement of, the existing rules. The regulations provide pharmacies, hospitals, and practitioners with the ability to use modern technology for controlled substance prescriptions while maintaining the closed system of controls on controlled substances.

Sincerely,

  
Mark W. Caverly, Chief  
Liaison and Policy Section  
Office of Diversion Control