



Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration

September 5, 2014

RE: NEW FEDERAL RULE FOR HYDROCODONE COMBINATION (HC) PRODUCTS

Dear Veteran:

You have been prescribed a medicine that contains a **combination of hydrocodone** (hye droe KOE done) and another medicine. Other names for Hydrocodone Combination (HC) medicine include AZDONE, LORCET, LORTAB, IBUDONE, TUSSIONEX and VICODIN. These medicines may be used to relieve pain or to reduce coughing. On **October 6th, 2014**, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) will change your HC medicine from a Schedule III to Schedule II, making it more strictly controlled. The DEA did this because these medications were found to be highly abused, habit forming and potentially deadly in overdoses and needed stricter regulations to improve their safe use.

What You Need to KNOW

- VA will switch all HC medicines to Schedule II by **October 3rd, 2014**, a few days before the DEA deadline. Starting October 3rd, 2014, new VA prescriptions for HC medications will be limited to a maximum 30-day supply and will have to be re-written each time you need more medication.
- Refills of new HC prescriptions will no longer be allowed on or after October 3rd, 2014.
- If your medication was being sent by VA's Consolidated Mail Order Pharmacy (CMOP), it will now come from your local VA pharmacy.

What You Need to DO

- You may request a remaining refill on prescription if it is due before October 3rd, 2014. Any future fills of HC medication will require a new prescription from your provider. You may request refill on MyHealthVet (www.MyHealth.va.gov) or by calling your pharmacy at 702-791-9061.

*NOTE: To use the VA Prescription Refill feature on MyHealthVet, you must be receiving health care from the VA and have registered on My HealthVet as a 'VA Patient.'

- To get more HC medication on and after October 3rd, 2014, submit your refill request to pharmacy as you have done in the past. If the refills are no longer usable, pharmacy will tell your provider that a new prescription needs to be written to continue therapy.
- Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions or concerns about your HC medication.
- Keep your medicine stored in a safe, secure place.

Other Important Information

Contact your VA Pharmacy 702-791-9061 or 1-888-633-7554 if you have any questions about this letter or your medications.

You may also want to use the Secure Messaging feature on My HealthVet. To use Secure Messaging, you must be receiving health care services from VA, have registered on My HealthVet as a 'VA Patient' and have a Premium account in My HealthVet.

Sincerely,

VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System
Pharmacy Services