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Oct. 6, 2014

DEA Final Rule Rescheduling Hydrocodone Combination Products

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has issued a final rule which reschedules Hydrocodone combination products (HCPs) from Schedule III to Schedule II of the Controlled Substances Act.

Effective October 6, 2014, physicians will no longer be able to fax prescriptions or call in prescriptions by telephone, and patients will not be permitted to get refills on the same prescription, but will have to return to a health care professional to get a new one. The drug will have to be stored in special pharmacy vaults.

The DEA rule states that prescriptions for HCPs issued before October 6, 2014, that have authorized refills may be dispensed until April 8, 2015. However, several pharmacy chains have indicated that once HCPs are changed in their computer system to Schedule II as of October 6, 2014 they will be *unable* to dispense the remaining refills. To avoid the possibility that medically necessary refills will not be dispensed between October 6, 2014 and April 8, 2015, physicians should consider providing patients with new Schedule II-compliant prescriptions.

The American Medical Association (AMA) has developed a FACT sheet available at <http://tinyurl.com/hydrocodonefactsheet>

For additional information, contact David Dryden at (302) 677-7313 or customerservice.dpr@state.de.us

Source: MSD

FDA Warns Doctors to Beware of Fake Drug Distributors

Federal prosecutors have recently uncovered rogue companies distributing foreign versions of Botox, fake cancer drugs, and other unapproved or contaminated medicines in the U.S. Often those operations will entice physicians by faxing "too good to be true" flyers that offer 75 percent or more off pricey injectable drugs.

"They are targeting doctors and medical clinics and using these aggressive marketing tactics to offer medications at discount rates," said Ilisa Bernstein, acting director of the Food and Drug Administration's office of compliance.

The agency recommends that doctors and purchasing administrators only buy drugs from wholesale distributors licensed in their states. Under a new federal law, all wholesalers must be state-licensed by the beginning of 2015.

For more information, please visit

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/HealthProfessionals/ucm389121.htm>

Source: MSD

About United Medical, LLC

Founded in November 2005 by Kemal Erkan, United Medical is a turnkey solution for the medical industry. Our mission is to raise the standards expected by today's physicians and practice groups; striving to increase the profitability for their practice while supplying state of the art technology for flawless patient care.

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