Hydrocodone-Combination Products Reclassification

****Please Read Important Notice****

Message: Hydrocodone-Combination Products Reclassification

Intended Audience: **Pharmacy Providers**

Date: 10/1/2014

Provider,

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) officially announced the rescheduling of hydrocodone-combination products (HCPs) from a Schedule III to a Schedule II controlled substance beginning October 6, 2014. (79 FR 49661 and 21 CFR 1306.22–1306.23, 1306.25, and 1306.27)

Hydrocodone-containing medications play a key role in acute and chronic pain management, and can help patients with the activities of daily life. Typically, hydrocodone is combined with either aspirin or acetaminophen (Vicodin, Lortab, Lorcet, Norco and their generic equivalents are some examples). The rescheduling will affect dozens of pain medications that contain hydrocodone.

Why is the DEA making this change?

These changes are designed to minimize the misuse of these medications, while still making sure that patients with severe pain have reasonable access to the medications they need.

What does this mean for your pharmacy?

Your pharmacy will need to have a DEA registration that includes Schedule II in order to dispense hydrocodone-combination products on or after October 6th.

Any prescription for a hydrocodone or a hydrocodone-combination product must be issued on a separate prescription blank. Electronic prescribing of these products is outlined by the DEA.

Any prescription written prior to October 6th for a hydrocodone-combination product that has remaining refills may continue to be refilled until April 8, 2015. If your pharmacy's system will not be able to process these refills, or your pharmacy chooses not to allow these refills, please work with the prescribers to obtain new prescriptions to ensure continuity of care for your patients.

Any prescription written on or after October 6th for hydrocodone-combination products will be treated as a Schedule II prescription and may not be refilled. Patients will have to present a new prescription for every fill.

New storage and record-keeping requirements will be in effect on October 6th.

Below is a list of some branded HCPs you may see which will be considered a Schedule II product on October 6th.

- Anexsia® (containing Acetaminophen, Hydrocodone)
- Hycet® (containing Acetaminophen, Hydrocodone)
- Hycodan® (containing Homatropine, Hydrocodone)
- Hydromet® (containing Homatropine, Hydrocodone)
- Ibudone® (containing Hydrocodone, Ibuprofen)
- Liquicet® (containing Acetaminophen, Hydrocodone)
- Lorcet® (containing Acetaminophen, Hydrocodone)
- Lorcet Plus® (containing Acetaminophen, Hydrocodone)
- Lortab® (containing Acetaminophen, Hydrocodone)
- Maxidone® (containing Acetaminophen, Hydrocodone)
- Norco® (containing Acetaminophen, Hydrocodone)
- Reprexain® (containing Hydrocodone, Ibuprofen)
- Rezira® (containing Hydrocodone, Pseudoephedrine)
- TussiCaps® (containing Chlorpheniramine, Hydrocodone)
- Tussionex® (containing Chlorpheniramine, Hydrocodone)
- Vicodin® (containing Acetaminophen, Hydrocodone)
- Vicodin ES® (containing Acetaminophen, Hydrocodone)
- Vicodin HP® (containing Acetaminophen, Hydrocodone)
- Vicoprofen® (containing Hydrocodone, Ibuprofen)
- Vituz® (containing Chlorpheniramine, Hydrocodone)
- Xodol® (containing Acetaminophen, Hydrocodone)
- Zolvit® (containing Acetaminophen, Hydrocodone)
- Zutripro® (containing Chlorpheniramine, Hydrocodone, Pseudoephedrine)
- Zydone® (containing Acetaminophen, Hydrocodone)

Please keep in mind, any generic product with a drug description that includes the word hydrocodone will be considered a Schedule II drug on October 6th.

If you have any questions about this change, please contact Provider Relations at 877-633-4701 or via e-mail at Provider.Relations@Catamaranrx.com.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in educating your pharmacy staff regarding these changes.

Catamaran Provider Relations and Pharmacy Audit and Compliance