



Interim Missouri Schedule II Policy



April 20, 2010

The DEA has published an announcement on their website www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov regarding a change in their previous policy regarding Schedule II controlled substance prescriptions. It is under their General Asked Questions section of the website.

The requirements for what is mandated documentation on a controlled substance prescription is set forth in Federal Regulation 21 CFR 1306.05(a), and also in Missouri statute, Section 195, 060.1, RSMo. These laws list the essential parts and requirements. Both laws were enacted in 1971.

Prior to November 2007, if an incomplete controlled substance prescription arrived at a pharmacy, a pharmacist could contact the prescriber by and make limited changes to make the prescription legal for dispensing. The pharmacist had to date and document the changes on the prescription.

The DEA's preamble to a new rule in November 2007 changed this and stated that pharmacists could no longer make changes to Schedule II prescriptions. The DEA stated they are in the process of amending this rule. In the meantime there has been information causing confusion. On April 19th, 2010, DEA recently stated that while they are amending their existing rule, they will allow practitioners to make changes to controlled substance prescriptions according to the laws and policies of their individual state.

The Missouri Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs conjointly with the Missouri Board of Pharmacy are informing Missouri practitioners to return to the standard of practice prior to November 2007, until such time that the DEA has promulgated a new rule. Until the new DEA rule is effective, Missouri practitioners shall adhere to the following guidelines:

Methods of changing prescriptions:

1. A prescriber may provide a written change to the pharmacy that the pharmacy must attach to the original prescription. The written change shall document the date and name of the person authorizing the change. The change may be mailed, emailed, or faxed.
2. The change may be communicated orally. The pharmacy shall record the date, changes, and person authorizing the changes on the front or back of the prescription.

What may be changed/added with permission

Date written
Patient's address (*complete physical address, not P.O. Box*)
Drug form
Drug strength
Quantity to be dispensed
Prescriber's address
Prescriber's DEA number
Directions for use
Substitutions permitted
Refill information
Reasons for extended supplies for Schedule II prescriptions

What can never be changed/added

Patient's name
Drug name
Prescriber's name
Prescriber's signature

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