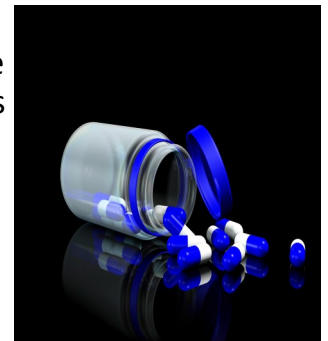


Hydrocodone Update

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 6, 2014, HYDROCODONE BECAME A SCHEDULE II PRODUCT. ALL ORDERS FROM THIS POINT FORWARD WILL REQUIRE A NEW, HANDWRITTEN PRESCRIPTION

HOW THIS AFFECTS YOU Southern Pharmacy has committed to filling Hydrocodone orders written before 10/6/14 as Class 3 controlled substances until April 2015, if refills were authorized. It is important to note that if there is any change to an ongoing order, it will also require a new hard copy from this point forward. Example: Ms. Jones has been taking Norco 5/325 TID for the past year. Today, it is increased to QID. According to new regulations this will require a new hard copy prescription for each 30 day supply needed.

BACKUP PHARMACIES Due to the change in schedule of Hydrocodone, backup pharmacies including Walgreens, CVS, and Rite Aid are not willing to fill these prescriptions without a hard copy. This affects Southern Pharmacy customers that use backup as a source of medications after-hours and on weekends. We apologize on behalf of the industry for the increased burden that this may cause for your prescribers and staff. Please ask prescribers to write hard copy prescriptions for hydrocodone prescriptions that may need to be filled at a backup pharmacy. To avoid delays in therapy, please encourage your staff to closely monitor ongoing orders and refill them during Southern's business hours, if possible. **We proactively increased the quantity of Hydrocodone 5/325 in your onsite MedDispense Machines. Please utilize the machine whenever possible in emergency situations.**



AVAILABILITY While there was a temporary shortage of hydrocodone products in early October, most strengths and combinations are readily available. The one exception at this time is Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen 5mg/300mg. **Please ask prescribers to change any new orders to Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen 5mg/325mg.**

AVOIDING DELAYS Some suggestions on how to avoid delays in receiving medications containing hydrocodone for your residents:

- Work with your admissions coordinator to ensure that all new admissions from hospitals arrive at your facility with hard copy prescriptions for these medications
- Review current facility policies regarding faxing hard copy prescriptions to the pharmacy. Please make sure staff faxes ALL hard copy prescriptions for controlled medications to Southern Pharmacy along with admission orders
- Ask prescribers to write hard copies for all new orders of controlled substances or to include a quantity and DEA number on hand written telephone orders
- Have a hard copy on-hand when ordering/receiving medications from a backup pharmacy
- Look for controlled substance templates sent from Southern Pharmacy and ask prescribers to complete and fax back