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## **CHANGES TO SCHEDULE II PRESCRIPTIONS**

Recently adopted rules for multiple Schedule II prescriptions by the Drug Enforcement Administration appeared to conflict with the long standing DEA policy regarding what a pharmacist may change on a Schedule II prescription after consultation with the prescribing practitioner. In the preamble to the Rule, DEA stated that "essential elements of the [schedule II] prescription written by the practitioner (such as the name of the controlled substance, strength, dosage form, and quantity prescribed)....may not be modified orally."

As of April 21, 2010, the DEA Diversion website displays the following statement for the question:  
**What changes may a pharmacist make to a prescription written for a controlled substance in schedule II?**

*" DEA recognizes the Resultant Confusion regarding this conflict and plans to resolve this matter through a future rule making. Until that time, pharmacists are instructed to adhere to state regulations or policy regarding those changes that a pharmacist may make to a schedule II prescription after oral consultation with the prescriber."*

The New Mexico Board of Pharmacy on March 25, 2011, is submitting the instruction that the following three (3) items on a Schedule II prescription **MAY NOT BE CHANGED.**

Name of the patient

Name of the drug

Name of the prescribing physician

The New Mexico Board of Pharmacy allows a pharmacist to add or change information on a schedule II prescription. The Board directs the pharmacist to follow instructions on the DEA website listed as **"What changes may a pharmacist make to a prescription written for a controlled substance in schedule III-V?"** when making changes or additions to a schedule II prescription.

The following is excerpted from the DEA answer to **"What changes may a pharmacist make to a prescription written for a controlled substance in schedule III-V?"**

"The pharmacist may add or change the patient's address upon verification. The pharmacist may add or change the dosage form, drug strength, drug quantity, directions for use, or issue date only after consultation with and agreement of the prescribing practitioner. Such consultations and corresponding changes should be noted by the pharmacist on the prescription. . . The pharmacist is never permitted to make changes to the patient's name, controlled substance prescribed (except for generic substitution permitted by state law) or the prescriber's signature."

Pharmacists may add the prescriber's DEA number and/or address only after consultation with and agreement of the prescribing practitioner. This information may be written on the prescription or added by affixing a label containing the required information to the face or the reverse side of the prescription.

Missing and/or incorrect information on the prescription may be written on the prescription or added by affixing a label containing the required information to the face or the reverse side of the prescription.