

# PractitionerUpdate

New York State Department of Health

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Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement

## Practitioner's DEA Number Required

The Public Health Law requires every written prescription for a controlled substance to contain the DEA registration number of the prescribing practitioner. Practitioners issuing prescriptions for controlled substances on the official New York State prescription form of a hospital should ensure that the prescription contains their personal DEA registration number. Only interns, residents, and foreign physicians may prescribe under the hospital's DEA registration, provided they are authorized by the hospital to do so and are assigned a suffix that must be indicated on the prescription.



## Quantities Allowable on Controlled Substance Prescriptions

Prescriptions for controlled substances are limited to a 30-day supply. However, a practitioner may prescribe up to a three-month supply of a controlled substance, including human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG), or up to a six-month supply of an anabolic steroid for treatment of the following designated conditions:

*Code A* Panic disorder

*Code B* Attention deficit disorder

*Code C* Chronic debilitating neurological conditions characterized as a movement disorder or exhibiting seizure, convulsive or spasm activity

*Code D* Relief of pain in patients suffering from diseases known to be chronic and incurable

*Code E* Narcolepsy

*Code F* Hormone deficiency states in males; gynecologic conditions that are responsive with anabolic steroids or chorionic gonadotropin; metastatic breast cancer in women; anemia and angioedema

When prescribing more than a 30-day supply of a controlled substance to treat one of the above conditions, a practitioner must write on the face of the prescription either the condition or the Code designating the condition.

**It is important to note that insomnia is not a designated condition. Prescriptions for controlled substances to treat insomnia are limited to a 30-day supply of the medication.**

## Physician's Assistants May Prescribe Schedule II

Section 3703(3) of the Public Health Law authorizes a registered physician's assistant to prescribe controlled substances – including Schedule II –

**beginning December 13, 2007.** The law requires such prescribing to be:

- In good faith and in the physician's assistant's lawful scope of practice;
- Authorized by the physician's assistant's supervising physician;
- For patients under the care of the supervising physician.

Physician's Assistants issuing prescriptions for controlled substances must comply with all requirements of Article 33 of the Public Health Law and Part 80 of Title 10 regulations. Physician's assistants also must be authorized by DEA to prescribe controlled substances.

**Important Note:** To prescribe Schedule II controlled substances, a physician's assistant's DEA registration must indicate prescribing authority for Schedule II. Physician's assistants wishing to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances must contact DEA to amend their registration to include Schedule II prescribing authority, if necessary.



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