

PractitionerUpdate

New York State Department of Health

Fall 2008

Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement

Advantages of Health Commerce System (HCS) Account

Practitioners are strongly encouraged to establish an online HCS account (previously called an HPN account) with the Department of Health by following instructions at <http://commerce.state.ny.us>. Utilizing an HCS account, practitioners may:

- Order larger quantities of Official New York State Prescriptions with faster delivery;
- Order Official Prescription paper for Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems;
- Easily revise and update your Practitioner Profile so that your Official Prescription ordering information remains current.

Important Note: Early in 2009, practitioners may utilize their HCS account to have secure online access to their patients' recent controlled substance prescription history. Access to this information will protect patient safety and curtail visits to multiple practitioners to obtain controlled substances for non-legitimate use. Practitioners will be notified as soon as this access becomes available.



Prescribing Anabolic Steroids

New York State Public Health Law, Section 3306, classifies all anabolic steroids, including testosterone, as schedule II controlled substances. As with all schedule II controlled substances, prescriptions for anabolic steroids cannot be refilled and are limited to a 30-day supply of the drug. However, a practitioner may prescribe up to a six-month supply of an anabolic steroid for treatment of one of the following approved conditions:

- Hormone deficiency states in males;
- Gynecologic conditions that are responsive with anabolic steroids;
- Metastatic breast cancer in women;
- Anemia; and
- Angioedema.

When prescribing more than a 30-day supply of an anabolic steroid to treat an approved condition, a practitioner must

write on the prescription either the condition being treated or the notation "Code F."

Requirements for Disposal of Controlled Substances

Section 80.51 of Title 10 regulations requires practitioners to dispose of expired, deteriorated, or unwanted controlled substances by one of the following methods:

- Return the controlled substances to the licensed distributor or manufacturer from whom they were purchased. **Distributors and manufacturers are required to accept full packages but may accept partial packages if they wish.**
- Surrender the controlled substances to a reverse distributor approved and licensed by the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement to accept such substances for disposal. **A list of approved reverse distributors is available by contacting the Bureau.**

- Request written approval from the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement to destroy the controlled substances on-site. **Required approval forms are available on the Bureau's website.**

Prescribing Buprenorphine for Opiate Addiction

Qualified physicians may prescribe or dispense buprenorphine (ie; Suboxone,[®] Subutex[®]) for the treatment of opiate addiction. Each qualified physician initially may treat up to 30 patients at a time for opiate addiction with buprenorphine. After one year, a qualified physician may apply to treat up to 100 patients at a time. For detailed information on qualifications, requirements and accredited training agencies for addiction treatment, physicians are urged to contact the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services at 800-522-5353 or www.oasas.state.ny.us.



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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www.nyhealth.gov/professionals/narcotic