

DEA Issues Proposed Rules on Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances

On March 24, 2010, the Office of the Federal Register made available for public inspection an Interim Final Rule with Request for Comments from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Department of Justice, on Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances. The regulations are found at: www.federalregister.gov/inspection.aspx

The Interim Final Rule specifies the rules that health care providers will need to follow to electronically prescribe controlled substances in accordance with the law. The Interim Final Rule is expected to be published in the Federal Register on Wednesday, March 31, becomes effective in 60 days and also includes a 60 day comment period.

DEA has revised its regulations to provide practitioners with the option of electronically writing prescriptions for controlled substances. The regulations will also permit pharmacies to receive, dispense, and archive these electronic prescriptions. These regulations are in addition to, not a replacement of, the existing rules. The regulations provide pharmacies, hospitals, and practitioners the ability to use modern technology for controlled substance prescriptions while maintaining the closed system of control on controlled substances.

Save the Date! NASCSA's Annual Conference October 19-22, 2010

This year's annual conference of the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA) will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina October 19-22, 2010. Visit NASCSA's website at www.nascsa.org periodically for updates.

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State Regulatory Developments

State Regulatory Developments is a monthly compilation by NASCSA of state regulatory actions related to pharmacy and controlled substances. State Regulatory Developments is located on the website www.nascsa.org under "News."