Greenville Healthcare Associates

A Note from Your Physician:

Dear Patient,

I want to share information with you about *hydrocodone combinations* (Norco, Lortab, Vicodin, Tussionex, etc) as they move from <u>Schedule III</u> to <u>Schedule II controlled substances</u>. Federal law is mandating this change. It will officially take place in all states on <u>October 6, 2014.</u>

<u>Hydrocodone</u> is the most prescribed opioid in the U.S. It is also associated with more abuse and diversion than other opioids.

Hydrocodone combinations will be subject to the same prescribing restrictions as other Schedule II controlled substances such as fentanyl, morphine, oxycodone, etc. As you know, these restrictions include <u>no phone or fax prescriptions</u>) no refills, and limits on quantity depending on your state's rules. In addition, mid-level practitioners may not be able to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances.

If you are a patient receiving any of these prescriptions, a new prescription may be required. Please schedule appointments for refills, so compliance with the regulations can be met.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dee G. McCrary