

On November 19, 2007, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) published in the Federal Register (FR) the Final Rule entitled *Issuance of Multiple Prescriptions for Schedule II Controlled Substances* (72 FR 64921). In the preamble to that Rule, DEA stated that “the 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.”

The instructions contained in the Rule’s preamble are in opposition to previous DEA policy, and this issue is under current legal review. Until this issue is resolved, pharmacists are instructed to adhere to state regulations regarding changes to schedule II prescriptions. Current South Carolina policy on schedule II changes states (a) after oral consultation with the prescribing practitioner, the pharmacist is permitted to change the patient’s address, drug strength, drug quantity, dosage form, and directions for use; and (b) the pharmacist **is not permitted to make changes** to the patient’s name, controlled substance prescribed (except for generic substitution), prescriber’s signature, or issue date. This includes the “Do Not Fill Until” date on multiple Schedule II prescriptions.