



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ★ DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
DIVERSION CONTROL DIVISION

Diversion News: December 2024

DEA and HHS Extend Telemedicine Flexibilities through 2025

In 2023, in response to a set of proposed telemedicine rules, DEA received more than 38,000 comments and held two days of public listening sessions. In light of that feedback and discussion, and to give DEA time to consider a new path forward for telemedicine, DEA and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) extended current telemedicine flexibilities through the end of 2025.

The full text of the extension, entitled “Third Temporary Extension of COVID-19 Telemedicine Flexibilities for Prescription of Controlled Medications,” was submitted to the Federal Register jointly with HHS on Nov. 15, 2024. Read more about the [extension](#).

DEA Warns of Electronic Prescription Fraud

The Drug Enforcement Administration has identified illegal schemes to generate fake electronic prescriptions, or e-scripts, for controlled substances by exploiting vulnerabilities in e-script software.

Tens of thousands of fake prescriptions have been filled by pharmacies throughout the United States. The clinicians’ names on these fake e-scripts did not know that their identities and credentials were being used to generate the e-scripts.

A new public safety [alert video](#) describes what DEA is seeing and what can be done to address the issue.



If you suspect you have been the victim of a scheme, immediately notify the DEA.

For more information on preventing prescription fraud, read the [Pharmacist’s Guide to Prescription Fraud](#) and other [resources](#).

Enhanced Controlled Substance Ordering System to Launch December 9, 2024

The updated Controlled Substance Ordering System (CSOS) will provide increased security without impacting customer service or patients' access to medications.

The system – used by DEA-registered pharmaceutical drug manufacturers and distributors, pharmacies, hospitals, and others – allows for the electronic ordering of Schedule I through V controlled substances.



An estimated 190,000 of DEA's more than 2.1 million registrants utilize CSOS. Learn more about the new, enhanced [CSOS](#) program and upcoming [training opportunities](#).

Diversion Control Division Enforcement

DEA's Diversion Control Division strives to prevent, detect, and investigate the diversion of controlled pharmaceuticals and listed chemicals from legitimate sources. When the safety and health of the American people is in jeopardy, DEA takes action against those who violate the law.



Madera Pharmacist Sentenced to over 7 Years in Prison for Illegally Trafficking Hundreds of Thousands of Opiate Pills

Nov. 25, 2024

Hospital in Washington Agrees to Pay \$15,000 Penalty and Implement Corrective Actions to Address Theft of Controlled Substances

Nov. 18, 2024

China-Based Chemical Company, Its Director and Senior Employees Indicted for Alleged Fentanyl Manufacturing and Distribution

Nov. 8, 2024

Covetrus Agrees to Pay \$1,125,000 for Failing to Adequately Address Suspicious Opioid Orders and for Inadequate Recordkeeping Practices

Oct. 30, 2024

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