News You Need: Prescribing Schedule II Hydrocodone Combination Products

As previously reported, the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) published a Final Rule in the Federal Register placing hydrocodone combination products (HCPs) into Schedule II effective October 6, 2014. The DEA’s press release which includes a link to the Final Rule is available for review.

Subsequently, the 2015 General Assembly amended § 54.1-3222 of the Code of Virginia, granting authority to optometrists to prescribe and administer hydrocodone in combination with acetaminophen within the scope of optometric practice.

The DEA’s chart of Mid-Level Practitioners Authorization by State reflects the change made to the Code of Virginia. In order to prescribe and administer hydrocodone in combination with acetaminophen, an optometrist must first apply to the DEA for a modification of his/her registration to include this Schedule II drug.

For questions related to modifying a DEA registration, contact your local DEA Field Office. Other questions may be directed to optbd@dhp.virginia.gov.