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September 25, 2014

Dear Patient,

We wish to inform you that the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has made a regulatory decision to reschedule hydrocodone-combination products (**Vicodin, Norco, Lortab, Vicodin ES, Acetaminophen/hydrocodone**, and other generic versions) from Schedule III to a Schedule II effective **October 6, 2014**. These products will be subjected to the same prescribing rules as Percocet, Oxycodone, and Morphine etc. What will the new Schedule II regulations and requirements mean?

- Your physician will no longer be able to phone or fax in new prescriptions for hydrocodone-combination drugs to any pharmacy
- Refills will no longer be allowed as of 10/6/2014 and a new written prescription will be required for any existing prescriptions with refills
- Your pharmacy will no longer be permitted to contact us for refills.

We hope that by providing this information and making you aware of the DEA changes you will understand that this is not an office policy but Federal law and why we will no longer be able to call or fax your pharmacy for hydrocodone-combination products. You will be required to get a **printed** and **signed** 30 day prescription.

Sincerely,

Arthritis and Rheumatism Associates, PC