Rec'd 12 Oct 11

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HEALTH AFFAIRS
SKYLINE FIVE, SUITE 810, 5111 LEESBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22041-3206

TRICARE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

SEP 13 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL, UNITED STATES NAVY
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Drug Enforcement Administration and National Provider Identifier Numbers for Military Treatment Facility Health Care Providers

All eligible Military Treatment Facility (MTF)-credentialed health care providers (civilian/military/continental United States/outside continental United States) shall obtain a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) number, in addition to the National Provider Identifier (NPI) number. DEA, in partnership with the Department of Defense (DoD), has created a process to provide a "for official use only" (FOUO) DEA number for all eligible MTF health care providers (see attached memo from DEA). This is a no-fee DEA number for providers to use when seeing patients at a MTF. More information, and the application form, is available at http://www.pec.ha.osd.mil/ (select MTF on the toolbar), or by contacting the Pharmacy Operations Center at (866) 275-4732. For specific questions regarding the NPI number, contact your local credentialing office, or visit https://www.cms.gov/nationalprovidentstand/.

The DEA registration number is a credential issued by DEA, authorizing health care providers and institutions to write and dispense controlled substances. Federal law requires a valid DEA registration number for all controlled substances dispensed in commercial pharmacies, such as the TRICARE mail order pharmacy and retail pharmacies.

The NPI is issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This identifier fills a much needed role of providing a consistent national identifier for health care providers. The NPI, however, does not grant the health care provider the authority to prescribe controlled substances, and cannot be used in lieu of a DEA registration number.

It is noted that there may be some MTF providers that are not eligible for registration with DEA and who may not have a state license. Military providers who are not eligible to obtain a DEA registration number may still be granted authority to prescribe and have prescriptions written by them filled by a MTF pharmacy in accordance with respective military instructions and their credentialed privileges; however, controlled substance prescriptions written by a provider without a DEA number cannot be filled outside the MTF (i.e., at TRICARE mail order pharmacies, or TRICARE retail pharmacies).

The DoD pharmacy beneficiary is often highly mobile for many reasons: leave, temporary duty, permanent change of station, deployment, or relocation for emergency purposes such as a natural disaster. To ensure beneficiaries are able to receive new prescriptions and/or transfer remaining refills of a prescription that they have on file at their MTF pharmacy to another pharmacy, it is critical that eligible health care providers be appropriately registered with both a FOUO DEA number and a NPI number.

C. S. Hunter
RADM, MC, USN
Deputy Director

Attachments:
1. Drug Enforcement Administration Procedures to Register Military Practitioners

U. S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration

www.dea.gov Springfield, Virginia 22152

J. Michael Spilker, Colonel, USAF BSC
Pharmacy Consultant to the Air Force Surgeon
General Associate Chief for Pharmacy,
BSC AFMSA/SG3S
1500 Wilson Blvd.
Suite 120
Arlington, Virginia 22209

MAR 18 2010

Carol W. Labadie, Pharm. D
COL, MS
USA MEDCOM Pharmacy Program Manager
U.S. Army Pharmacy Consultant

CAPT. Stephanie M. Simon, MSC, USN
Pharmacy Consultant to the Surgeon General
of the Navy/Specialty Leader
Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
2300 E. Street NW
Washington, DC 20372-5300

Dear Colonel Spilker, Libadie and Captain Simon:

This letter clarifies the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) current procedures for registering military practitioners and incorporates a recent change that DEA will renew those military practitioners that are deployed and/or stationed overseas.

In February 2000, the DEA and Department of Defense (DOD) began an initiative to register all military physicians. Military credentialing was established as the designated point of contact for state licensure verification with DEA. All military practitioners provide their state licensure information to the credentialing office at their respective military facility. The credentialing office verifies the state license(s) and forwards that information to DEA. This eliminates the need for DEA to verify individual practitioner state licensures. Listed below are the five categories of practitioners that DEA registers. Once issued, the DEA registration is for official use only, and will not be valid upon separation from the military or assigned to non-military training program. In addition, a separate, non-exempt registration is required for any work conducted outside official duties. Application for DEA registration as a military practitioner should reflect the practitioner's name. For security reasons the rank is not required. Listed below are the five categories of practitioners that DEA currently registers:

- Active Military Physicians (MD, DO, DDS, DMD, and DPM) are fee exempt and may be licensed in any state to obtain a DEA registration.

- Active Military Mid-Level Practitioners (Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Medical Psychologist and Optometrists) are fee exempt and may be licensed in any state to obtain a DEA registration. They must have a state license, not a national certificate. Any mid-level practitioner that has a valid license from any state can practice with at the military facility.

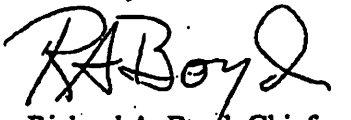
- Reservist Practitioners are fee exempt and may be licensed in any state in order to obtain a DEA registration but the DEA registration will only be valid for the military duties.

- Civil Service Practitioners (G/S doctors) are fee exempt and may be licensed in any state in order to obtain a DEA registration.

- Contract Physicians (they are not government civil service hires) for the military are fee exempt and may be licensed in any state to obtain a DEA registration. The number can only be used to practice at a military facility and cannot be transferred to private practice. DEA will only approve those contract practitioners that the military credentialing office submits to DEA.

Should you require any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 307-4925.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Boyd, Chief
Registration and Program Support Section
Office of Diversion Control