September 2, 2014

Dear Veteran:

You have been prescribed a medication containing HYDROCODONE (Vicodin®, Lortab®, Norco®). This medicine is used to relieve moderate to moderately severe pain.

The United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has reclassified HYDROCODONE containing medications as Schedule II, which more tightly controls its monitoring and distribution. The DEA is doing this because HYDROCODONE can be abused, habit forming and dangerous in overdoses.

What You Need to KNOW!

• On September 22, 2014, any refills that may remain on your current HYDROCODONE prescription will no longer be able to be ordered.

• If your HYDROCODONE prescription needs to be continued after September 22, 2014, your provider will have to write a NEW prescription. Under the new DEA drug classification, new HYDROCODONE prescriptions CANNOT have any refills.

• On September 22, 2014, all HYDROCODONE prescriptions being mailed to your home address will be sent UPS and require an adult signature for delivery.

What You Need to DO - If You Feel That Additional HYDROCODONE Is Needed!

• Your provider will only order additional HYDROCODONE if needed.

• When you have 14 days of HYDROCODONE tablets left, please contact your health care provider by:
  o calling the Phoenix VA Controlled Substance phone line at 602-200-2378
  o calling the Phoenix VA Pharmacy Call Center at 602-222-6550

• Contact your provider if you have any questions or concerns about HYDROCODONE.

• Contact the Phoenix VA Pharmacy Call Center at 602-222-6550 if you have any questions about this change.

• Keep ALL of your medicine stored in a safe, secure place.

Sincerely,

Pharmacy Service / Ambulatory Care Service
Phoenix VA Health Care System