

Dear Executive Directors,

I wanted bring to your attention a [significant change](#) in the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) registration renewal process that may have unintended consequences for both health care providers and patients. Starting January 1, 2017, DEA will eliminate the informal grace period for registrants who failed to file a renewal application on time. The agency will now send only one renewal notice to a registrant's "mail to" address approximately 65 days prior to the expiration date, and no further reminders to renew the DEA registration will be sent.

The announcement also advises that registrants will no longer be able to renew their registration online after the expiration date, and paper renewal applications will not be accepted the day after the expiration date. Failure to file for a new application by midnight Eastern Time of the expiration date will result in the "retirement" of the registrant's DEA number and the registrant will have to apply for a completely new DEA registration. The original DEA registration will not be reinstated.

Because of concerns that physicians are unaware of this change, the American Medical Association (AMA) sent [letters](#) to DEA Acting Administrator Charles Rosenberg and Louis Milione (Assistant Administrator for Diversion Control) expressing their concerns about this policy change and urged them to reverse the change to the renewal process. If the change is upheld, it may present problems for patients and practitioners. I encourage you to share this with your licensees to mitigate the number of patient care and access issues that may arise as a result of this policy change.

Thank you for your attention.

Best wishes for the holiday season!

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