



Specialty Focus

Broward Doc Supports New FDA Rule on Hydrocodone

Dear Editor:

The new FDA rule on hydrocodone combination painkillers will affect patients and doctors on multiple levels. The rule is intended to reduce the patient and doctor abuses that produced a pill-mill economy in South Florida, illegal narcotics trafficking nationwide and more than 16,000 deaths annually.

Some have complained that the regulations that took effect in mid-October are overly restrictive. We can attest from more than two decades of seeing patients with injuries and chronic pain conditions that the positives clearly outweigh the negatives. That's why we put into effect a long time ago a new FDA restriction that painkiller prescriptions can be filled every 30 days instead of all at once.

We believe the new regulations will redirect individuals with real pain to legitimate doctors. People who truly need help will still receive it. Alternatively, clinically proven advanced pain management regimens that deliver medications in minute doses or those using minimally invasive techniques are available to those with chronic pain conditions. Will the new rules eliminate drug abuse? Of course not. But they'll shift the focus of physicians and patients away from pill popping and doctor shopping to the proper diagnosis and treatment of pain.

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