

NOTICE TO PHYSICIANS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES WHO SUBMIT NURSE PRESCRIBING PROTOCOLS TO THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE MEDICAL BOARD

EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2011

In its efforts to improve the process for APRNs to obtain a Drug Enforcement Administration number to write prescriptions for controlled substances, the Georgia Composite Medical Board (GCMB), in conjunction with the Atlanta Field Division for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Georgia Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) recently met to discuss solutions to expedite the process of issuing DEA numbers for APRN applicants.

As a result of this meeting, it was determined that the DEA could expedite the requests for numbers if the Georgia Composite Medical Board would issue a protocol number for each accepted protocol. Effective December 1, 2011, you will need your GCMB protocol number before you apply for your DEA number.

The letter you receive from the Board accepting your protocol will now include your GCMB protocol number. This is not a license number, and has no impact on your professional license issued by the Georgia Board of Nursing. This number **will not** be included in the Georgia Composite Medical Board's database under licensure search. This number is issued **only** for tracking purposes for the DEA.

Please remember a DEA number is required only if the APRN will be prescribing controlled substances. With a DEA number, the APRN may prescribe Schedule III-V drugs, but not Schedule II. (Under Georgia law, only physicians can prescribe Schedule II drugs.) Without a DEA number, the APRN may not prescribe any scheduled drugs, but may only write prescriptions for dangerous drugs (such as antibiotics, etc.).

It is our sincere hope this will help to facilitate an expedited process for obtaining your DEA number.