



News Release

PO Box 360, Trenton, N.J. 08625-0360

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Commissioner

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Department of Health and Senior Services Proposes to Readopt N.J.A.C. 8:65, the Controlled Dangerous Substances Rules, with Amendments, Repeals and a New Rule.

The Department of Health and Senior Services proposes to readopt the Controlled Dangerous Substances Rules with amendments, repeals and a new rule. The notice of proposal appears in the September 17, 2007, issue of the New Jersey Register.

N.J.A.C. 8:65 contains the rules governing the manufacturers, distributors and dispensers of controlled dangerous substances. The rules in Chapter 65 are needed to ensure the efficient distribution of controlled dangerous substances and to prevent the diversion and illicit use of these substances.

The proposal would make several changes to Chapter 65 to conform the chapter to federal law. The proposed amendments would provide for the registration of reverse distributors of controlled dangerous substances and the use of electronic orders for controlled dangerous substances in New Jersey. The use of electronic orders would reduce the time and expense of filing written orders, and the registration of reverse distributors would provide another registered entity to whom unwanted or unused controlled dangerous substances may be distributed.

The proposal would repeal the schedules of controlled dangerous substances in Chapter 65 and adopt a new rule that would incorporate by reference the schedules of controlled dangerous substances that are regulated by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency. The proposal would retain the Commissioner's authority to object to the scheduling of a substance in this State that has been added to the federal schedules.

Even though they are not Schedule I substances under federal law, the proposal would designate Gamma Butyrolactone (GBL) and 1,4 Butanediol as Schedule I substances because they can be used to produce the same effect as the date-rape drug Gamma hydroxybutyric acid (GHB). Schedule I substances have a high potential for abuse and are subject to more stringent control.

The public has until November 16, 2007 to comment on the proposal. Persons wishing to comment on the proposal must submit their comments in writing to Ruth Charbonneau, Director, Office of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, PO Box 360, Trenton, NJ 08625-0360. Written comments must be postmarked on or before November 16, 2007, which is the close of the 60-day public comment period.