



U. S. Department of Justice  
Drug Enforcement Administration

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Washington D.C. 20537

MAR 12 1998

Mr. Kenneth Whittemore, Jr.  
Vice President, Management Services & State Relations  
National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)  
205 Daingerfield Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mr. Whittemore:

I want to take a moment to personally thank you for your attendance and participation on January 21, 1998 at the Electronic Prescription Meeting hosted by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Attached, for your information, is the list of individuals who attended this meeting which was extremely useful to DEA.

As we discussed during the long day, there are many considerations which must reasonably be included in examining and revising prescription information systems, including requirements by other elements of the Executive and Legislative Branches of the Federal government. The continued explosion in technology introduces new protocols, software, hardware, encryption analogs, and security products daily. Balancing the need to accommodate this expanding and ever growing technology in any proposed regulation against the need to maintain adequate safeguards and diversion prevention controls presents DEA with a daunting task.

As was indicated during the closing remarks, I expect to move towards a proposal to revise 21 CFR §1306 as expeditiously as practicable. In addressing issues generated from this meeting, you can expect further contacts from my staff; specifically Staff Coordinator James Crawford who has received the assignment to draft proposals for the changes.

Again, thank you for attending the meeting and assisting DEA in better understanding the current practices and use of technology by registrants.

Sincerely,

*Patricia M. Good*

Patricia M. Good, Chief  
Liaison and Policy Section  
Office of Diversion Control