



**PHARMACY DATA MANAGEMENT (PDM)  
ePharmacy Phase 4 Iteration II**

**RELEASE NOTES**

PSS\*1\*139

Version 1.0  
December 2008



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# Introduction

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This patch has enhancements which extend the capabilities of the Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) electronic pharmacy (ePharmacy) billing system. Below is a list of all the applications involved in this project along with their patch number:

All sites should install these patches regardless of whether or not they have been activated for ePharmacy by the Central Business Office (CBO). After the installation of these patches, the activation status of the site will not be impacted. As before, activation of the ePharmacy product will require instructions provided by the CBO. Sites are not to activate unless instructed specifically by the CBO.

This patch is being released along with PSO\*7\*303 and IB\*2\*405. These patches can be installed in any order but the full functionality contained within these patches will not be available until all 3 patches are installed.

# Pharmacy Data Management V. 1.0 - PSS\*1\*139

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Patch PSS\*1\*131 includes the following enhancements:

- A new Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Handling code, Nutritional (N) was added as a selection to the DEA SPECIAL HDLG prompt for DRUG ENTER/EDIT [PSS DRUG ENTER/EDIT] option.

## DEA SPECIAL HANDLING CODE

Once Outpatient Pharmacy patch PSO\*7\*303 and Integrated Billing patch IB\*2\*405 is installed, any drug defined with this new code will be treated in the same manner as supply items and investigational drugs. The “N” DEA Special Handling code must be defined manually.

VA Facilities should never charge veterans copayments for nutritional supplement prescriptions. Until this enhancement the only method to prevent copayment was to flag items as “S” Supply or “I” Investigational. Neither of these flags is appropriate for nutritional supplements. An additional entry of “N” Nutritional Supplement, in the DEA, SPECIAL HDLG field of the Drug File (#50), was added to address the nutritional supplement issue. The “N” will flag these products to ensure that the patient is not charged a VA copayment. In situations where the prescriptions for these products should still be billed to third parties, an “E” can be appended to the DEA, SPECIAL HDLG field for the drug file entry. Nutritional supplements however are usually not third party reimbursable.

Sites will need to determine all the nutritional supplements in their drug file and mark the DEA, SPECIAL HDLG field entry for all of their nutritional supplements drug file entries with an “N”. They will also need to append any entries that may be third party reimbursable with an “E”. Usually only Rx Only nutritional supplements are third party reimbursable.

Drug Enter/Edit option example:

Select OPTION NAME: DRUG ENTER/EDIT PSS DRUG ENTER/EDIT Drug Enter/Edit  
Drug Enter/Edit

Select DRUG GENERIC NAME: TRAZO

Lookup: GENERIC NAME

1 TRAZODONE 100MG TAB N/F

2 TRAZODONE 50MG TAB

CHOOSE 1-2: 1 TRAZODONE 100MG TAB N/F

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This entry is marked for the following PHARMACY packages:

Outpatient

Non-VA Med

GENERIC NAME: TRAZODONE 100MG TAB//

VA CLASSIFICATION:

**DEA, SPECIAL HDLG: 3// ?**

ANSWER MUST BE 1-6 CHARACTERS IN LENGTH

THE SPECIAL HANDLING CODE IS A 2 TO 6 POSTION FIELD. IF APPLICABLE,  
A SCHEDULE CODE MUST APPEAR IN THE FIRST POSITION. FOR EXAMPLE,  
A SCHEDULE 3 NARCOTIC WILL BE CODED '3A', A SCHEDULE 3 NON-NARCOTIC WILL BE  
CODED '3C' AND A SCHEDULE 2 DEPRESSANT WILL BE CODED '2L'.  
THE CODES ARE:

- 0 MANUFACTURED IN PHARMACY
- 1 SCHEDULE 1 ITEM
- 2 SCHEDULE 2 ITEM
- 3 SCHEDULE 3 ITEM
- 4 SCHEDULE 4 ITEM
- 5 SCHEDULE 5 ITEM
- 6 LEGEND ITEM
- 9 OVER-THE-COUNTER
- L DEPRESSANTS AND STIMULANTS
- A NARCOTICS AND ALCOHOLS
- P DATED DRUGS
- I INVESTIGATIONAL DRUGS
- M BULK COMPOUND ITEMS
- C CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES - NON NARCOTIC
- R RESTRICTED ITEMS
- S SUPPLY ITEMS
- B ALLOW REFILL (SCH. 3, 4, 5 ONLY)
- W NOT RENEWABLE
- F NON REFILLABLE
- E ELECTRONICALLY BILLABLE

**N NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENT**

DEA, SPECIAL HDLG: 3//