



Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration

Change in TRAMADOL Prescriptions

On **August 18th, 2014**, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will change the rules for a medicine called **tramadol** (*TRAM a dol*). This will now be a controlled substance (Schedule IV). Other names for tramadol or tramadol-containing products include Ultram, Ultram Extended Release (ER), Conzip and Ultracet. This medicine is used to relieve moderate to moderately severe pain. The DEA did this because tramadol can be abused, is habit forming and deadly in some overdoses. The DEA [published its rule change in the Federal Register](#) in July 2014.

What You Need to Know

Starting August 18th, 2014, tramadol prescriptions will have a maximum of 5 refills. Prescriptions for tramadol will have to be re-written every six months. Because of the new limit on refills, tramadol prescriptions may expire sooner.

- If you have a prescription for a tramadol-containing medication and have access to the pharmacy feature on My HealthVet, logon to www.myhealth.va.gov. The number of refills showing on the 'Refill My Prescription' page may reflect your original prescription. It will change when your doctor re-writes the prescription based on the new limit on refills and expiration date.
- To use the VA Prescription Refill feature, you must be receiving health care from the VA and have registered on My HealthVet as a 'VA Patient.' Your prescription page will show the refill checkboxes and the prescription name and number.

What You Need to Do

- Talk to your health care team if you have any questions or concerns about tramadol.
- If you do not see your prescription for tramadol on My HealthVet and you need a refill, contact your health care team or pharmacist.
- Keep your medicine stored in a safe, secure place.

Other Important Information

Contact your VA Pharmacy if you have any questions about this notice or your medications. Most VA Pharmacy contact numbers are listed on your prescription label. You can also check [the VA facility locator](#) to find a list of VA facilities.

You may also want to use the Secure Messaging feature on My HealthVet. To use Secure Messaging, you must be receiving health care services from VA, have [registered](#) on My HealthVet as a 'VA Patient' and have a Premium account in My HealthVet.