

Dear Wholesaler:

On January 1, 2009, the Florida Department of Health will begin issuing a new permit called the Health Care Clinic Establishment (HCCE) permit. The purpose of this letter is to provide you, as the suppliers of prescription drugs to Florida's health care providers, an overview of the permit and explanation of the Department's process in issuing this new permit.

Health care practitioners or veterinarians who are purchasing prescription drugs through the use of their personal professional license number are **not** required to obtain the HCCE permit. The HCCE permit is available as an **alternative** to the purchase of prescription drugs under a practitioner's personal license. It authorizes a professional corporation or professional limited liability company under Chapter 621, Florida Statutes (F.S.), to purchase prescription drugs. It also authorizes the purchase of prescription drugs by corporations that employ veterinarians.

The Department recognizes many distributors have traditionally included on their invoices the name and license number of the practitioner purchasing the drug, along with the name of the clinic. Section 499.01(2)(t), F.S., requires both the name and license number of the HCCE establishment and the name and license number of the Qualifying Practitioner to be on the distribution document. The Department understands that distributors may have to make recordkeeping changes to comply with these new requirements.

We are receiving large numbers of HCCE applications from businesses that have chosen to purchase prescription drugs in the name of their business organization. Our staff is dedicated to processing applications as quickly as possible to insure that there is no disruption in the distribution of prescription drugs to practitioners while enacting the new law.

Additional information about the new permit, including the permit application and Quick Reference Guide containing frequently asked questions (FAQs), is available at the Drugs, Devices and Cosmetics Program website [www.doh.state.fl.us/pharmacy](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/pharmacy). You may also call our designated phone line for the HCCE permit at 850-245-4227.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Poston, R.Ph.  
Executive Director