

The Deputy Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a final rule rescheduling buprenorphine from a Schedule V narcotic to a Schedule III narcotic under the Federal Controlled Substances Act. Buprenorphine is a semisynthetic opioid approved for the treatment of moderate to severe pain and for the treatment of opiate addiction. The Department of Health and Human Services recommended DEA reevaluate buprenorphine's abuse potential in light of numerous scientific studies and years of human experience. The rescheduling action was based on the following:

- (1) Buprenorphine has a potential for abuse less than the drugs or other substances in Schedules I and II;
- (2) Buprenorphine has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States;
- (3) Abuse of buprenorphine may lead to moderate or low physical dependence or high psychological dependence.

Pursuant to Section 481.034(g), as amended by the 75th legislature, of the Texas Controlled Substances Act, Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code, at least thirty-one days have expired since notice of the above referenced action was published in the Federal Register, and in my capacity as Commissioner of the Texas Department of Health, I do hereby order that the substance buprenorphine be rescheduled from Schedule V to Schedule III of the Texas Controlled Substances Act. Schedule III and Schedule V of said Act are hereby amended as shown in the attached January 2003 republication of the Schedules of Controlled Substances.