



**U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
Office of Diversion Control
Registration and Program Support Section**

Washington, D.C. 20537

Dear Applicant:

This is in response to your letter to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) inquiring about requirements for individual practitioners practicing in multiple locations or multiple states.

Pursuant to Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (21 CFR) 1301.12(a) a separate registration is required for each principal place of business or professional practice where a practitioner distributes or dispenses controlled substances. A practitioner may prescribe at multiple locations within one state so long as he or she is registered at his or her principal place of business or professional practice. 21 CFR 1301.12(b)(3). Thus, a practitioner need not obtain an additional registration at a separate location in the same state where the practitioner only prescribes controlled substances.

A practitioner who maintains professional practices in multiple states is deemed to have established a principal place of business or professional practice in each state. Any location in separate states, where a practitioner distributes or dispenses controlled substances is a "principal place of business or professional practice" requiring separate DEA registration. The term "maintains," although not defined in the CSA or regulations, connotes a continuing, ongoing place of business or professional practice as opposed to a one-time or temporary one.

A physician who occasionally prescribes in another state and who does not maintain a practice there is not required to be registered in that state. This allows a physician to work in a locum tenens capacity in multiple states without having to obtain a DEA registration in each state. The term "occasionally," also not defined in the CSA or regulations, means "on occasion." Hence, a physician required to prescribe on a more permanent, regular basis in multiple states would also have to obtain additional DEA registrations in each state.

Please be advised that the practitioner must obtain the necessary authorization and licensing to practice and handle controlled substances from each jurisdiction in which any activities will be carried out whether additional DEA registrations are required or not.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact this office at 1-800-882-9539 or write to:

Drug Enforcement Administration
Registration Unit - ODRR
Washington, D.C. 20537

Enclosure

DATE: 06-04-2003

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Section 1301.12 Separate registrations for separate locations.

- (a) A separate registration is required for each principal place of business or professional at one general physical location where controlled substances are manufactured, distributed, imported, exported, or dispensed by a person.
- (b) The following locations shall be deemed not to be places where controlled substances are manufactured, distributed, or dispensed:
 - (1) A warehouse where controlled substances are stored by or on behalf of a registered person, unless such substances are distributed directly from such warehouse to registered locations other than the registered location from which the substances were delivered or to persons not required to register by virtue of subsection 302(c)(2) or subsection 1007(b)(1)(B) of the Act (21 U.S.C. 822(c)(2) or 957(b)(1)(B));
 - (2) An office used by agents of a registrant where sales of controlled substances are solicited, made, or supervised but which neither contains such substances (other than substances for display purposes or lawful distribution as samples only) nor serves as a distribution point for filling sales orders; and
 - (3) An office used by a practitioner (who is registered at another location) where controlled substances are prescribed but neither administered nor otherwise dispensed as a regular part of the professional practice of the practitioner at such office, and where no supplies of controlled substances are maintained.



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Dear Applicant:

This is in reply to your inquiry concerning use of a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration in different states for locum tenens activities.

The term "locum tenens practitioner" means a registered practitioner who temporarily substitutes for another registered practitioner or facility for period not to exceed 60 days at that other practitioner's or facility's registered place of business. This place of business can be located in a state other than the one in which the locum tenens practitioner possesses a DEA registration. However, the locum tenens practitioner must comply with the registration and licensing requirements of all states or jurisdictions in which that practitioner will temporarily practice.

An individual practitioner may use a DEA registration issued for a given location at other locations, including across state lines, if the following conditions are met:

The registration is used in the course of activities carried out on behalf of another DEA registrant, either practitioner or facility, at their registered location.

The necessary licenses for medical practice and handling of controlled substances have been obtained from the jurisdictions) in which the activities will be carried out.

The activities are temporary, not to exceed 60 days duration, after which no further activities are planned. For instance, if a practitioner provided emergency room services to a hospital for two weeks, after which no further services are planned, use of a DEA registration issued at another location would be acceptable. However, if a practitioner were to provide services to a hospital for one week a month over a period of months, then it would be necessary to obtain a separate registration for activities at the location.

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