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I mean, it really worked. To determine whether patients could influence their doctors' prescribing practices, primary care physicians from six states viewed videos in which professional actors simulated a consultation with a primary care doctor. The wording of the patients' request for oxycodone was rather unnerving. The study To determine whether patients could influence their doctors' prescribing practices, primary care physicians from six states viewed videos in which professional actors simulated a consultation with a primary care doctor. Even when the doctors didn't prescribe oxycodone in particular, they were more likely to prescribe another strong narcotic to patients who had requested oxycodone. Narcotics aren't recommended for people who have occupations that rely heavily on driving. One video scenario depicted a truck driver complaining of pain. The results suggested that even a gentle request from a patient could convince a doctor to prescribe potent, potentially dangerous narcotics even when they're not the best-practice treatment for the patient's condition. The study also included actor-patients who requested the drug Celebrex for their osteoarthritis. The study found that patient requests for certain medications such as the powerful narcotic oxycodone "substantially affected physician-prescribing decisions, despite the drawbacks of the requested medications. Half of the "patients" asked for oxycodone specifically, and the other half didn't. The idea that patients' suggestions could influence doctors to prescribe things against their best judgment is especially troubling considering the recent spike in pain pill abuse. States have also been cracking down on pill mills that hand out narcotic painkillers to people who don't have a medical need for them. Still, the results of the study could be partially attributed simply to the power of suggestion, Ubel said. The actors described symptoms that suggest sciatica , or back and leg pain that could be caused by nerve damage. Mar 28, - Increasingly, states expect those who prescribe controlled substances in a chronic manner to have signed prescribing agreements with patients that are Sometimes the prescribing appears questionable, such as when a dermatologist recently prescribed 2 days of hydrocodone for a patient in our practice. The government is tightening controls on pain medications that contain hydrocodone, the most frequently prescribed opioid in the country. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is moving hydrocodone combination products such as Vicodin, Lorcet and Lortab from Schedule III to the more restrictive Schedule. Jan 16, - In October , hydrocodone combination products were rescheduled as Schedule 2, making refills impossible and requiring a trip to the prescriber for a new prescription. The reason for the rescheduling is hard to argue against: because of its abuse history and potential, hydrocodone should have been. Sep 15, - Although the DEA rule allows refills of prescriptions issued before Oct. 6 until April 8, , other factors could prevent patients from getting those refills. Several states have published notices that they will treat hydrocodone combination product prescriptions issued before Oct. 6 in the same way they will. Jun 9, - Then I got a text from a sober friend of mine who was checking up on me. (He'd had a years-long relapse after being given a prescription of hydrocodone, better known as Vicodin, following a dental procedure.) When I described how I was feeling, he didn't hesitate in his reply: You don't have a kidney. Feb 4, - No longer able to get refills for hydrocodone, patients are forced to see a doctor each time they need more of the pain killer. It's a process that appears to have cut hydrocodone abuse, but that's only part of the story. I know someone who works for the DEA and he is currently on hydrocodone. More than I was getting as a chronic pain patient. Think of the people who have cancer and cannot get enough medication to relieve the cancer pain. This thing with the DEA goes much further than just assigning them to our lives. This is a. Feb 29, - Even though the risk of addiction to opioid medications is low for chronic pain patients, heightened awareness of abuse and stepped-up law enforcement against misuse has spooked many physicians, making it harder for some pain patients to get the drugs they need. "One doctor we went to referred to. In some cases, combined hydrocodone and alcohol abuse can lead to respiratory failure. Hydrocodone's painkilling properties make it similar to heroin, which is often cheaper and more accessible. All too often, people who have developed a dependence on hydrocodone while prescribed to it turn to heroin as a substitute. Oct 6, - The week before the new restrictions that only allow handwritten prescriptions for a 30 day supply of hydrocodone came into effect, I happened to have a regular check-up with my rheumatologist. At the end

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of my appointment we walked into the hallway where we were accosted by her staff. They pleaded.