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NOTICE

TO: Massachusetts Prescribers
FROM: David E. Johnson, Director, the Drug Control Program
Bureau of Health Professionals Licensure, Department of Public Health
DATE: March 20, 2022
SUBJECT: Synchronization of Massachusetts Controlled Substance Registration
with Professional License Term

This notice is intended to inform all Massachusetts prescribers of a new system for scheduling of renewal of the Massachusetts Controlled Substance Registration (MCSR), which all prescribers are required to possess.

Section 9 of chapter 260 of the acts of 2020 requires the Department of Public Health's (DPH) Drug Control Program (DCP) to synchronize MCSR renewal with a practitioner's underlying license renewal. In implementing this requirement, DCP has established a more streamlined and equitable MCSR renewal process for all practitioners.

As set forth in the Executive Office of Administration and Finance's rate regulation, 801 CMR 4.02, the fee for MCSR registration and renewal is \$150 annually. When synchronizing MCSR renewal with a practitioner's underlying license renewal, the practitioner would pay a single MCSR renewal fee that accounts for the practitioner's licensure term.

For example:

- Both Physicians and Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) have two-year licensure terms.
 - Both licensees renew every other year on their birthday.
 - Rather than collecting the annual MCSR fee of \$150 each year, a licensee will renew and pay a \$300 fee every other year, with the licensing fee.
- Optometrists have a one-year licensure term.
 - They will renew their MCSR by paying the \$150 MCSR fee annually, along with their licensing fee.

For many licensees, the MCSR renewal schedule will not change, and for most health professions licenses, the total MCSR fee paid for their license term will not change. Please see fee chart on next page.

If you have questions about this notice, please contact the Drug Control Program at dph.dcp@mass.gov.

**Massachusetts Controlled Substance Registration (MCSR) Fee Synchronization
Comparison by Practitioner**

Practitioner	License Term (Years)	MCSR Term (Years)	MCSR Fee/Term	MCSR Annual Payment
Physician (prior to 2019 c. 260)	2	3	\$150	\$50
Physician (synced)		2	\$300	\$150
APRN (prior to 2019 c. 260)	2	1	\$150	\$150
APRN (synced)		2	\$300	\$150
Physician Assistant (prior to 2019 c. 260)	2	1	\$150	\$150
Physician Assistant (synced)		2	\$300	\$150
Podiatrist (prior to 2019 c. 260)	1	3	\$150	\$50
Podiatrist (synced)		1	\$150	\$150
Optometrist (prior to 2019 c. 260)	1	1	\$150	\$150
Optometrist (synced)		1	\$150	\$150
Dentist (prior to 2019 c. 260)	2	3	\$150	\$50
Dentist (synced)		2	\$300	\$150
CDTM Pharmacist (prior to 2019 c. 260)	2	1	\$150	\$150
CDTM Pharmacist (synced)		2	\$300	\$150
Veterinarian (prior to 2019 c. 260)	1	3	\$150	\$50
Veterinarian (synced)		1	\$150	\$150