



For Prescribers - New Limits on Prescription Opioids for Acute Pain

Updated 12/5/2017

NOTE: This guidance is intended to provide a general overview of the limits on prescription opioids for acute pain. For specific questions regarding the limits, please contact the appropriate prescriber regulatory board (contact information for each board can be found on the last page of this document).

Effective August 31, 2017, the State of Ohio will have new rules for prescribing opioid analgesics for the treatment of acute pain. Please be advised, the limits in the rules **DO NOT** apply to the use of opioids for the treatment of chronic pain.

In general, the rules limit the prescribing of opioid analgesics for acute pain, as follows:

1. No more than seven days of opioids can be prescribed for adults.
2. No more than five days of opioids can be prescribed for minors and only after the written consent of the parent or guardian is obtained in accordance with section 3719.061 of the Revised Code. A guidance document (that includes exemptions to the consent requirements) can be accessed [here](#).
3. Health care providers may prescribe opioids in excess of the day supply limits only if they provide a specific reason in the patient's medical record.
4. Except as provided for in the rules, the total morphine equivalent dose (MED) of a prescription for acute pain cannot exceed an average of 30 MED per day.
5. The new limits do not apply to opioids prescribed for cancer, palliative care, end-of-life/hospice care or medication-assisted treatment for addiction.
6. The rules apply to the first opioid analgesic prescription for the treatment of an episode of acute pain.
7. The rules do not apply to inpatient prescriptions as defined in [rule 4729-17-01 of the Administrative Code](#).

NOTE: These rules do not apply to veterinarians.



Starting December 29, 2017, rule [4729-5-30](#) will require prescribers to include the first four alphanumeric characters (ex. M16.5) of the diagnosis code (ICD-10) or the full procedure code (Current Dental Terminology - CDT) on all opioid prescriptions, which will then be entered by the pharmacy into Ohio's prescription monitoring program, [OARRS](#). This requirement will take effect for all other controlled substance prescriptions on June 1, 2018. **NOTE:** This requirement does not apply to veterinarians.

Starting December 29, 2017, rule [4729-5-30](#) will also require prescribers to indicate the days' supply on all controlled substance and gabapentin prescriptions. **NOTE:** This requirement does not apply to veterinarians.

To assist prescriber's in calculating a patient's morphine equivalent dose, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has developed a conversion chart that can be accessed here: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/MEDtable.

For additional information, please review your licensing board's respective rules and the Board of Pharmacy's manner of issuance rule:

Dental Board

- [4715-6-02](#) - Prescribing opioid analgesics for acute pain

Medical Board

- [4731-11-01](#) - Definitions (related to controlled substances)
- [4731-11-02](#) - General provisions (related to controlled substances)
- [4731-11-13](#) - Prescribing of opioid analgesics for acute pain

Nursing Board

- [4723-9-10](#) - Formulary; standards of prescribing for advanced practice registered nurses designated as clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives, or certified nurse practitioners.

Pharmacy Board

- [4729-5-30](#) - Manner of issuance of a prescription. (NOTE: This rule will not go into effect until December 29, 2017. The Board has adopted a resolution regarding the diagnosis/procedure code provisions of this rule: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/AcuteResolution)

Prescribing Opioids for the Treatment of Chronic Pain

As a reminder, Ohio developed guidelines for the treatment of chronic pain using opioids. These guidelines can be [accessed here](#).

Diagnosis Code Requirement for Inpatient Orders

The diagnosis code requirements for opioids and other controlled substances **DO NOT** apply to inpatient orders at institutional facilities. Such orders are governed by rule [4729-17-09](#) of the Ohio Administrative Code.

For More Information

If you are a prescriber, please contact your respective regulatory board using the information below.

State Medical Board of Ohio: <http://med.ohio.gov/ForthePublic/ContactUs.aspx>

- The Medical Board has also developed a prescriber resources page: <http://med.ohio.gov/Resources/PrescriberResources.aspx>

Ohio Board of Nursing: <http://www.nursing.ohio.gov/Contact.htm>

Ohio State Dental Board: Phone: (614) 466-2580 / E-mail: dental.board@den.ohio.gov

If you are a pharmacist, please refer to the following FAQ for pharmacists: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/acuteFAQ.