

New Limits on Prescription Opioids for Acute Pain



The new rules for prescribing opioid analgesics for the treatment of acute pain are effective August 31, 2017. These rules DO NOT apply to the use of opioids for the treatment of chronic pain.

The New Rules for Physicians and Physician Assistants

Generally, 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 the first prescription for adults.
- 2** No more than five days of opioids can be prescribed for the first prescription for minors, and only after the written consent of the parent or guardian is obtained.
- 3** Health care providers may prescribe opioids in excess of the day supply limits only if a specific reason is provided in the patient's 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.

Part 2 of the Acute Prescribing Rules

Starting December 29, 2017 prescribers are required to:

- 1** Include the first four alphanumeric characters of the diagnosis code or full procedure code **on opioid prescriptions**. The inclusion of a diagnosis/procedure code (CDT) will be required for all other controlled substance prescriptions on June 1, 2018.
- 2** Indicate the days' supply on **all other** controlled substance and gabapentin prescriptions.

For complete information see [Ohio Administrative Codes 4731-11-01, 4731-11-02, 4731-11-13, 4729-5-30, med.ohio.gov](#)

Tools for Educating Patients on Safe Medication Practices



Make sure to check out Ohio's campaign, Take Charge Ohio, to access educational materials that you can use to help inform patients on the importance of pain medication safety.

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There are many resources and educational tools available to help prescribers easily put the new acute pain prescribing rules into every day practice. Help us to reduce the frequency and amount of opioids prescribed for acute pain, by checking out resources and tools below.

Prescriber Resources

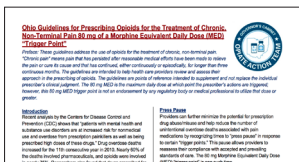
The prescriber resources are as follows:

Opioid (strength in mg except where noted) M	ME Conversion Factor
Hydrocodone, transdermal patch (MCS/MS)	1.5
Buprenorphine, tablet or film	30
Buprenorphine, film (MCS)	0.001
Butorphanol	7
Codeine	0.15
Oral morphine	0.15
Fentanyl, buccal/SL tablet or lozenge/lozenche (MCS)	0.1
Fentanyl, buccal/SL (MCS)	0.1

Oral Morphine Milligram Equivalent Conversion Table: To assist prescribers in calculating a patient's morphine equivalent dose, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has developed a reference guide to help physicians calculate the 30 M-E-D. Find a more robust listing online at pharmacy.ohio.gov/MEDtable



MED Calculator: To calculate the morphine equivalent dose, the Board of Pharmacy has developed an online calculator, which can be accessed by visiting pharmacy.ohio.gov/calculator



Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain Guidelines: To learn more about how to effectively prescribe for chronic pain, visit bit.ly/ChronicPainGuidelines



General Prescriber Resources: For more information on general prescriber practices, visit: med.ohio.gov/PrescriberResources.aspx

For complete information see Ohio Administrative Codes: 4731-11-01, 4731-11-02, 4731-11-13, med.ohio.gov

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