



Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Training and Technical Assistance Center

Opioid Prescribing Restrictions for Acute and Chronic Pain

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ALASKA

Authority	§ 08.68.705
Applicable To	Advanced practice registered nurses
Adult Patient	APRN may not issue an initial prescription for an opioid that exceeds a 7-day supply to an adult patient for outpatient use
Minor Patient	APRN may not issue a prescription for an opioid that exceeds a 7-day supply
Exception*	If, in the professional judgment of the APRN, more than a 7-day supply is necessary for the patient's acute medical condition, chronic pain management, pain associated with cancer, or pain experienced while the patient is in palliative care; or, a patient who is unable to access a practitioner within the time necessary for a refill of the 7-day supply due to a logistical or travel barrier
Authority	§ 08.36.355
Applicable To	Dentists
Adult Patient	Dentist may not issue an initial prescription for an opioid that exceeds a 7-day supply to an adult patient for outpatient use
Minor Patient	Dentist may not issue a prescription for an opioid that exceeds a 7-day supply
Exception*	If, in the professional judgment of the dentist, more than a 7-day supply is necessary for the patient's chronic pain management; must document the condition triggering the prescription and indicate that a non-opioid alternative was not appropriate; or, a patient who is unable to access a practitioner within the time necessary for a refill of the 7-day supply due to a logistical or travel barrier
Authority	§ 08.64.363
Applicable To	Physicians, osteopaths, podiatrists
Adult Patient	Licensee may not issue an initial prescription for an opioid that exceeds a 7-day supply to an adult patient for outpatient use
Minor Patient	Licensee may not issue a prescription for an opioid that exceeds a 7-day supply
Exception*	If, in the professional judgment of the practitioner, more than a 7-day supply is necessary for the patient's acute medical condition, chronic pain management, pain associated with cancer, or pain experienced while the patient is in palliative care; licensee must document the condition triggering the prescription and indicate that a non-opioid alternative was not appropriate; for a patient who is unable to access a practitioner within the time necessary for a refill of the 7-day supply because of a logistical or travel barrier; for the treatment of a patient's substance abuse or opioid dependence
Authority	§ 08.72.276
Applicable To	Optometrists
Adult Patient	Optometrist may not issue an initial prescription for an opioid that exceeds a 4-day supply to an adult patient for outpatient use
Minor Patient	Optometrist may not issue a prescription for an opioid that exceeds a 4-day supply
Exception*	If the licensee determines that more than a 4-day supply is necessary to treat the patient's medical condition or for chronic pain management; must document the condition triggering the prescription and indicate that a non-opioid alternative was not appropriate; or for a patient who is unable to access a practitioner within the time necessary for a refill because of a logistical or travel barrier

ALASKA (cont'd)

Authority	§ 08.98.245
Applicable To	Veterinarians
Adult Patient	Veterinarian may not issue an initial prescription for an opioid to the owner of an animal patient for outpatient use that exceeds a 7-day supply
Minor Patient	
Exception*	If the veterinarian determines that more than a 7-day supply is necessary to treat the animal's medical condition or for chronic pain management; must document the condition triggering the prescription and indicate that a non-opioid alternative is not appropriate; for an owner who is unable to access a veterinarian or pharmacist within the time necessary for a refill because of a logistical or travel barrier

ARKANSAS

Authority	§ 20-7-703
Applicable To	Emergency departments
Adult Patient	Hospitals with emergency departments must adopt guidelines concerning opioid prescribing in the emergency department which include limits on amounts or duration of opioid prescriptions
Minor Patient	
Exception*	

CONNECTICUT

Authority	§ 20-14o
Applicable To	Prescribing practitioners (physicians, dentists, podiatrists, optometrists, physician assistants, APRNs, nurse-midwives, veterinarians)
Adult Patient	May not issue an initial prescription to an adult patient for outpatient use for an opioid in excess of a 7-day supply
Minor Patient	May not issue an opioid prescription in more than a 5-day supply
Exception*	If, in the professional judgment of the practitioner, more than a 7-day or 5-day supply is required to treat the patient's acute medical condition, or is necessary for the treatment of chronic pain, pain associated with a cancer diagnosis, or for palliative care; must document condition triggering the prescription and indicate that a non-opioid alternative was not appropriate; does not apply to medications for the treatment of abuse or dependence on opioids

DELAWARE

Authority	24 ADC CSA 9.0
Applicable To	Practitioners
Adult Patient	May not issue a prescription for an opioid to an adult patient for outpatient use for the first time for an acute pain episode for more than a 7-day supply
Minor Patient	May not issue a prescription for an opioid to a minor for more than a 7-day supply at any time
Exception*	If, in the professional judgment of the practitioner, more than a 7-day supply is necessary to treat the patient's acute medical condition; condition triggering the prescription must be documented, the practitioner must query the PMP, and the practitioner shall indicate that a non-opioid alternative was not appropriate; does not apply to hospice care patients, active cancer treatment patients, patients experiencing cancer-related pain, terminally ill/ palliative care patients, and hospital patients, during the hospital stay, including any prescription issued at the time of discharge, so long as the discharge prescription is for a quantity of a 7-day supply or less

INDIANA

Authority	§ 25-1-9.7-2
Applicable To	Prescribers
Adult Patient	Initial prescription may not exceed a 7-day supply
Minor Patient	Prescription may not exceed a 7-day supply
Exception*	Does not apply to patients receiving treatment for cancer, palliative care, medication-assisted treatment for a substance use disorder, any other condition adopted by rule by the medical board to be necessary to be exempted; if, in the professional judgment of a prescriber, a patient requires more than a 7-day supply; the prescriber must document that a non-opioid was not appropriate and that the patient is receiving palliative care or that the prescriber is using his or her professional judgment for the exemption

KENTUCKY

Authority	§ 218A.205 ; 201 KAR 9:260
Applicable To	Physicians
Adult Patient	For the purpose of treating pain as or related to an acute medical condition, physician shall not prescribe more than a 3-day supply of a Schedule II controlled substance
Minor Patient	
Exception*	If the physician determines that more than a 3-day supply is necessary; must document the acute medical condition and lack of alternative medical treatment option; does not apply to hospice or end-of-life treatment; treatment of chronic pain; treatment of pain associated with cancer or treatment of cancer; patients in long-term care facilities; if the substance is dispensed or administered directly to a patient in an inpatient setting; during the effective period of disaster or mass casualties; in a single dose to relieve the anxiety, pain, or discomfort experienced by a patient submitting to a diagnostic test or procedure; Schedule II substances as part of a narcotic treatment program; Schedule II substances immediately prior to, during, or within 14 days following a major surgery or significant trauma, being any operative or invasive procedure or a delivery, and the usage does not extend beyond 14 days

LOUISIANA					
Authority	§ 40:978				
Applicable To	Medical practitioners				
Adult Patient	Practitioner shall not issue a first-time prescription for an opioid for treatment of an acute condition for more than a 7-day supply				
Minor Patient	Practitioner shall not issue a prescription for an opioid for more than a 7-day supply at any time				
Exception*	If, in the professional judgment of the practitioner, more than a 7-day supply is necessary to treat the patient's acute medical condition or is necessary for the treatment of chronic pain management, pain associated with a cancer diagnosis, or for palliative care; must document condition that triggered the prescription and indicate a non-opioid was not appropriate; does not apply to medications used to treat substance abuse or opioid dependence				
MAINE					
Authority	32 § 2210 ; 14-118 Ch. 11, § 6	32 § 2600-C	32 § 3300-F	32 § 3657	32 § 18308
Applicable To	Nurses	Osteopaths	Physicians	Podiatrists	Dentists
Adult Patient	May not prescribe to a patient any combination of opioid medication in an aggregate amount in excess of 100 morphine milligram equivalents of opioid medication per day; on or after Jan. 1, 2017, within a 30-day period, more than a 30-day supply of an opioid to a patient under treatment for chronic pain management; on or after Jan. 1, 2017, within a 7-day period, more than a 7-day supply of an opioid to a patient under treatment for acute pain, unless the medication is labeled by the FDA to be dispensed only in a stock bottle that exceeds a 7-day supply, in which case the amount dispensed may not exceed a 14-day supply				
Minor Patient					
Exception*	Does not apply when prescribing opioids for pain associated with active and aftercare cancer treatment; palliative care in conjunction with serious illness; end-of-life and hospice care; medication-assisted treatment; pregnant individual with a pre-existing prescription for opioids in excess of 100 MMEs for the duration of the pregnancy; individuals pursuing an active taper of opioids, with a maximum taper period of six months, individuals who are prescribed a second opioid after proving unable to tolerate a first opioid, thereby causing the individual to exceed the 100 MME limit for active prescriptions, or other circumstances determined by rule; or when directly ordering or administering a benzodiazepine or opioid to a person in an emergency room setting, an inpatient hospital setting, a long-term care facility, or a residential care facility, or in connection with a surgical procedure				
MARYLAND					
Authority	Health Occ. § 1-223				
Applicable To	Health care providers				
Adult Patient	On treatment for pain, provider must prescribe the lowest effective dose of an opioid and a quantity that is no greater than the quantity needed for the expected duration of pain severe enough to require an opioid				
Minor Patient					
Exception*	Does not apply to opioids prescribed for a substance-related disorder; pain associated with a cancer diagnosis; pain experienced while the patient is receiving end-of-life, hospice, or palliative care; or chronic pain				

MASSACHUSETTS	
Authority	94C § 19D
Applicable To	Practitioners
Adult Patient	Practitioner shall not issue a prescription for an opioid to an adult patient for outpatient use for the first time in excess of a 7-day supply
Minor Patient	Practitioner shall not issue a prescription for an opioid to a minor for more than a 7-day supply at any time
Exception*	If, in the professional judgment of the practitioner more than a 7-day supply is necessary for the treatment of chronic pain management, pain associated with a cancer diagnosis, or for palliative care; must document condition that triggered the prescription and indicate that a non-opioid alternative was not appropriate; does not apply to medications designed for the treatment of substance abuse or opioid dependence
MINNESOTA	
Authority	§ 152.11
Applicable To	Dental and ophthalmic pain
Adult Patient	When used for the treatment of acute dental pain or acute pain associated with refractive surgery, prescriptions for opiate or narcotic pain relievers listed in Schedules II – IV shall not exceed a 4-day supply
Minor Patient	
Exception*	Does not apply to chronic pain, or pain being treated as part of cancer care, palliative care, or hospice or end-of-life care; if, in the professional judgment of a practitioner more than a 4-day supply is required, the practitioner may issue a prescription for the amount needed
NEW HAMPSHIRE	
Authority	Den. 503.04 Med. 502.04 Nat. 501.04 Nur. 502.04
Applicable To	Dentists Physicians and physician assistants Naturopaths Nurses
Adult Patient	In an emergency department, urgent care setting, or walk-in clinic, may not prescribe more than the minimum amount of opioids necessary to treat the patient's condition; in most cases, an opioid prescription of 3 or fewer days is sufficient, but may not prescribe more than a 7-day supply
Minor Patient	
Exception*	
NEW JERSEY	
Authority	§ 24:21-15.2 ADC 13:37-7.9A ADC 13:38-2.5
Applicable To	Practitioners Nurses Optometrists
Adult Patient	Shall not issue an initial prescription for an opioid in a quantity exceeding a 5-day supply for the treatment of acute pain; initial prescriptions may not be for an extended-release or long-lasting opioid
Minor Patient	
Exception*	

NEW YORK

Authority	Public Health § 3331
Applicable To	Practitioners
Adult Patient	Practitioner may not issue an initial prescription for more than a 7-day supply of any Schedule II – IV opioid to a patient upon the initial consultation or treatment of such patient for acute pain
Minor Patient	
Exception*	Does not include chronic pain, pain being treated as part of cancer care, hospice or end-of-life care, or pain being treated as part of palliative care practices

NORTH CAROLINA

Authority	§ 90-106
Applicable To	Practitioners
Adult Patient	Practitioner may not prescribe more than a 5-day supply of a targeted controlled substance upon the initial consultation and treatment of a patient for acute pain; shall not prescribe more than a 7-day supply of a targeted controlled substance for post-operative acute pain relief for use immediately following a surgical procedure (eff. Jan. 1, 2018)
Minor Patient	
Exception*	Does not apply to prescriptions for controlled substances issued by a practitioner who orders such substance to be administered in a hospital, nursing home, hospice facility, or residential care facility

PENNSYLVANIA

Authority	35 § 52A03 ; § 52A04
Applicable To	Prescribers
Adult Patient	
Minor Patient	Prescriber may not prescribe more than a 7-day supply of an opioid; prior to prescribing for a minor, the prescriber must obtain written consent from the minor’s parent, guardian, or an authorized adult; if consent is obtained from an authorized adult, prescriber may not issue a prescription for more than a 72-hour supply
Exception*	Does not apply: 1) if the patient is undergoing treatment associated with or incident to a medical emergency as documented in the minor’s medical record; 2) if, in the professional judgment of the prescriber, compliance would be detrimental to the minor’s health or safety; 3) if, in the professional judgment of the prescriber, more than a 7-day supply is required to stabilize the minor’s acute medical condition; must document the acute medical condition in the record and indicate why a non-opioid alternative was not appropriate; 4) if the prescription is for management of pain associated with cancer, use in palliative or hospice care, or management of chronic pain not associated with cancer

OHIO			
Authority	ADC 4731-11-13	ADC 4723-9-10	ADC 4715-6-02
Applicable To	Physicians	Nurses	Dentists
Adult Patient	Initial prescriptions of an opioid analgesic for the treatment of an episode of acute pain shall not exceed a 7-day supply with no refills; total morphine equivalent dose shall not exceed an average of 30 MED per day unless certain specific parameters are met; extended release or long-acting opioids shall not be prescribed for the treatment of acute pain		
Minor Patient	Initial prescriptions of an opioid analgesic for the treatment of an episode of acute pain shall not exceed a 5-day supply with no refills; total morphine equivalent dose shall not exceed an average of 30 MED per day unless certain specific parameters are met; extended release or long-acting opioids shall not be prescribed for the treatment of acute pain		
Exception*	May exceed the limits if the pain is expected to last longer than seven days based on the pathology causing the pain; must document the condition and the reason that a non-opioid medication was not appropriate; does not apply to patients in hospice care or in a hospice program, patients receiving palliative care, patients diagnosed with a terminal condition, or to an individual who has cancer or another condition associated with the individual's cancer or history of cancer; does not apply to prescriptions used for the treatment of opioid addiction or to inpatient prescriptions		
RHODE ISLAND			
Authority	§ 21-28-3.20 ; ADC 31-2-6:4.4		
Applicable To	Prescribing practitioners		
Adult Patient	Initial prescriptions of opioids for acute pain management of outpatient adults shall not exceed 30 MMEs total daily dose for a maximum of 20 doses; long acting or extended release opioids, including methadone, shall not be prescribed for acute pain		
Minor Patient			
Exception*	Does not include chronic pain management, pain associated with a cancer diagnosis, palliative or nursing home care, or other exception in accordance with Dept. of Health regulations; does not apply to medications designed for the treatment of substance abuse or opioid dependence		

VERMONT	
Authority	ADC 12-5-53:5.0
Applicable To	Providers
Adult Patient	The following limitations apply to initial prescriptions for opioid naïve patients: 1) minor pain – no opioids; 2) moderate pain – limited to 24 MME/day for a total of 71 MMEs for 0-3 days and 120 MMEs for 1-5 days; moderate pain includes treatment for non-compound bone fractures, most soft tissue injuries, most outpatient laparoscopic surgeries, and shoulder arthroscopy; 3) severe pain – limited to 32 MME/day for a total of 96 MMEs for 0-3 days and 160 MMEs for 1-5 days; severe pain includes treatment for many non-laparoscopic surgeries, maxillofacial surgery, total joint replacement, compound fracture repair; for patients with severe pain and extreme circumstances, providers may use their professional judgment to prescribe 50 MME/day with a 7-day maximum of 350 MMEs
Minor Patient	The following limitations apply to initial prescriptions for minors: 1) minor pain – no opioids; 2) moderate to severe pain – limited to 24 MME/day for a total of 72 MMEs for 0-3 days
Exception*	Does not apply to patients in skilled and intermediate care nursing facilities; pain associated with significant or severe trauma; pain associated with complex surgical interventions, such as spinal surgery; pain associated with prolonged inpatient care due to post-operative complications; medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorders; patients who are not opioid naïve; other circumstances as determined by the Commissioner of Health
VIRGINIA	
Authority	18 VAC 85-21-40
Applicable To	Prescribers
Adult Patient	Prescriber providing treatment for acute pain shall not prescribe a controlled substance containing an opioid in a quantity that exceeds a 7-day supply; includes prescriptions issued on discharge from an emergency department; an opioid prescribed as part of treatment for a surgical procedure shall be for no more than 14 days and within the immediate perioperative period
Minor Patient	
Exception*	Does not apply if there are extenuating circumstances which are clearly documented in the patient’s medical record
WEST VIRGINIA	
Authority	ADC § 85-20-53
Applicable To	
Adult Patient	Schedule II drugs should be prescribed on an outpatient basis for no more than two weeks after initial injury or following a subsequent operative procedure; Schedule III drugs and Schedule IV opioid drugs should be prescribed on an outpatient basis for no more than six weeks after initial injury or following a subsequent operative procedure; Schedule IV sedative and anxiolytic drugs should be prescribed on an outpatient basis for no longer than six months after initial injury or following a subsequent operative procedure
Minor Patient	
Exception*	

* Exceptions apply to both adult and minor patients unless otherwise indicated