



FAQ: New Limits on Prescription Opiates for Acute Pain

Updated 4/3/2017

On Thursday, March 30th, Governor Kasich, Board President, Michael Moné, and leaders of the Medical, Nursing and Dental Boards [announced new limits on prescription opiate prescribing](#).

The limits, which must be adopted through administrative rule by each Board, will place commonsense parameters on the use of opiates for the treatment of acute pain. Based on data from the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS), it is estimated that the state could see an additional reduction of 109 million opiate doses once the new rules are in effect.

PLEASE NOTE: The limits are NOT currently effective and must be adopted by the Medical, Nursing and Dental Boards through the administrative rules process. The Board of Pharmacy will be adopting separate rules to assist with the implementation of the limits.

For questions regarding the proposed rules, please review the following frequently asked questions document.

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>

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 contact the Board by visiting:
www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/contact



Q1) What are the general provisions of the proposed rules?

1. No more than seven days of opiates can be prescribed for adults;
2. No more than five days of opiates can be prescribed for minors;
3. The total morphine equivalent dose (MED) of a prescription for acute pain cannot exceed an average of 30 MED per day;
4. Health care providers can prescribe opiates in excess of the new limits only if they provide a specific reason in the patient's medical record. Unless such a reason is given, a health care provider is prohibited from prescribing opiates that exceed Ohio's limits;
5. Prescribers will be required to include a diagnosis or procedure code on every controlled substance prescription, which will be entered into Ohio's prescription monitoring program, OARRS; and
6. The new limits do not apply to opiates prescribed for cancer, palliative care, end-of-life/hospice care or medication-assisted treatment for addiction.

Q2) Are the limits currently in effect?

No. The limits will be incorporated into administrative rule by the Medical, Dental and Nursing Boards. This will follow Ohio's standard rule review and adoption process.

Further information will be provided by each Board once the rules are finalized, but before they become effective.

Q3) Where can I view a copy of the rules?

Rules will be made available for review and comment in accordance with each Board's respective rulemaking process. A copy of the Board of Pharmacy's rules will be made available on its proposed rules page: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/proposed

Q4) Do the limits apply to veterinarians?

No. At this time, the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board does not plan to adopt the proposed limits.

Q5) Will pharmacists be required to enforce the proposed seven and five day limits?

No. The responsibility of adhering to the proposed limits will fall to the prescriber.

Q6) Do the proposed limits apply to the use of opiates for chronic pain?

No. The limits only apply to the treatment of acute pain. For chronic pain, prescribers should adhere to the [Ohio's chronic pain guidelines](#).