

New Limits on Prescription Opioids for Acute Pain

Effective August 31, 2017, the Ohio Boards of Nursing, Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy respectively will have new rules for prescribing opioid analgesics for the treatment of acute pain.

The Nursing Board urges APRN prescribers and all licensees to review new Rule [4723-9-10](#), OAC, that establishes standards of prescribing, including the new limits to prescribing opioids for acute pain.

The rule specifies standards for APRN prescribing and sets parameters for prescribing opioids for treatment of acute pain. The rule does not apply to prescribing opioids for cancer, palliative care, end-of-life/hospice care or medication-assisted treatment for addiction.

In general, the rule limits are as follows:

1. No more than seven days of opioids prescribed for adults.
2. No more than five days of opioids prescribed 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 they provide a specific reason in the patient's medical record.
4. The total morphine equivalent dose (MED) of a prescription for acute pain cannot exceed an average of 30 MED per day.

The rule becomes effective on August 31, 2017 and should be implemented by the APRN in tandem with the Pharmacy Board Rule [4729-5-30](#), OAC, "Manner of Issuance of a Prescription." The changes in this Pharmacy Board rule will go into effect on December 29, 2017. See the Pharmacy Board resolution regarding the diagnosis procedure code (www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/AcuteResolution).

Rule [4729-5-30](#) requires all prescribers, including APRNs, to include the first four characters (ex. M16.5) of the diagnosis code (ICD-10) or the full procedure code (Current Dental Terminology - CDT) on controlled substance prescriptions, which will be entered by the pharmacy into Ohio's prescription monitoring program, OARRS.

Also starting December 29, 2017, Rule [4729-5-30](#) will require prescribers, including APRNs, to indicate the days' supply on all controlled substance and products containing gabapentin.

To assist prescribers in calculating a patient's MED, the Pharmacy Board developed a conversion chart. See <https://ohiopmp.gov/MED.calculator.aspx>.

Please visit the Nursing Board website at www.nursing.ohio.gov for additional information in the coming weeks about this rule and other laws and rules that may impact your practice and the safety of the patients for whom you care. If you are an APRN prescriber and have questions, please contact the Nursing Board at practice@nursing.ohio.gov.