



## For Prescribers - Limits on Prescription Opioids for Acute Pain

**Updated 12/19/2023**

***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.***

The State of Ohio has 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.

Ohio also implemented rules for the treatment of chronic pain using opioids. More information can be accessed here: <https://med.ohio.gov/for-licensees/prescriber-resources/overview-regulations-for-chronic-and-subacute-opioid-prescriptions>

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 or orders as defined in [Chapter 4729:5-9](#) of the Administrative Code.

**NOTE:** These rules do not apply to veterinarians.

All prescribers are required 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 controlled substance prescriptions, which will then be entered by the pharmacy into Ohio's prescription monitoring program, [OARRS](#). **NOTE:** This requirement does not apply to veterinarians.

For more information on prescription requirements, visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/rx](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/rx).

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

- [4729:5-5-15](#) - Manner of issuance of a prescription. For more information on prescription requirements, visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/rx](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/rx).
- If you are a pharmacist, please refer to the following FAQ for pharmacists: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/acuteFAQ](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/acuteFAQ).

### **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. Inpatient orders for institutional facilities are governed by [Chapter 4729:5-9](#) of the Ohio Administrative Code.