

Physician Fact Sheet

PHYSICIAN/PRESCRIBER REMINDERS WHEN PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS

Before Prescribing Opioids, Remember to

-  **CHECK** the Massachusetts Prescription Awareness Tool (MassPAT).*
-  **DETERMINE** goals of using prescription opioids.
-  **DO** a Risk Assessment. If the patient is at risk for misuse or substance use disorder, make a plan to address and/or mitigate risks. Be sure benefits of opioid therapy outweigh potential risks.
-  **PRESCRIBE** for no longer than seven days for any first-time prescription unless an exception applies. Within the Emergency Department prescribe for no longer than five days. Any exceptions must be documented in the medical record.* Prescribe the lowest dose for the least number of days.
-  **EXPLAIN** the expected benefits, side effects, risks, and important safety measures to patients (and caregiver if necessary).*
-  **DISCUSS** the amount prescribed, appropriate dosing, and the option to fill a lesser amount.*
-  **DOCUMENT** in the medical record: goals, exceptions and reasons, patient education, and treatment plan.*
-  **TAKE** special precautions when prescribing long-term opioid therapy. Check the Opioid Prescribing Guidelines adopted by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine.

Some Considerations

- Consult with a pain specialist as deemed clinically appropriate by the treating prescriber.
- Prescribers must enter into a pain management agreement with patients when prescribing extended-release long-acting opioids in non-abuse deterrent form.*
- Prescribers should consider entering into a pain management agreement for patients who are being prescribed opioids for long-term pain management, as the treating provider determines to be clinically appropriate.
- Consider co-prescribing Naloxone for patients on long-term opioid therapy.

-  **PLAN** follow-up.

* Required by MA State Law