

TAKE CONTROL

OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES



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In 2018, Florida passed the Controlled Substances Bill that establishes prescribing limits, requires continuing education on controlled substance prescribing, expands required use of Florida's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, EFORCSE®, and more.

Required Continuing Education



Each prescribing practitioner who is registered with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency, is required to take a Board-approved continuing education course, unless the practitioner is already required to complete such a course under his or her practice act.

The course must be completed by January 31, 2019, and at each subsequent licensure renewal.

Prescription Limits for Acute Pain

A prescribing practitioner may prescribe up to a 3-day supply of a Schedule II opioid to alleviate acute pain. However, a prescribing practitioner may prescribe up to a 7-day supply for acute pain if the prescriber:

- determines more than a 3-day supply is needed based on the professional judgment of the prescriber;
- indicates "acute pain exception" on the prescription; AND
- documents the justification for deviating from the 3-day supply limit in the patient's medical record.

To learn more, visit flhealthsource.gov/FloridaTakeControl

Prescriptions for Nonacute Pain

If the prescriber writes a prescription for a Schedule II opioid for the treatment of pain other than acute pain, the prescriber must indicate "NONACUTE PAIN" on the prescription.

Pain Management Clinics

All pain management clinics must be registered with the Department of Health (DOH) as a pain management clinic or hold a certificate of exemption by January 1, 2019.

Applicant for certificate of exemption



An applicant must provide:

- The name or names under which the applicant does business;
- The address at which the pain management clinic is located;
- The specific exemption that the applicant is claiming, along with supporting documentation; AND
- any other information DOH deems necessary.

Each certificate must be renewed biennially, be prominently displayed, and be made available to the DOH or applicable board upon request.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)

Each prescriber and dispenser, or his/her designee, has a duty to consult the PDMP system to review a patient's controlled substance dispensing history each time a controlled substance is prescribed or dispensed to a patient age 16 or older, unless a statutory exemption applies.

Statutory exemptions include:

- Patient is less than 16 years of age;
- Drug being prescribed is a nonopioid Schedule V;
- System is not operational; OR
- Requestor has technological or electrical failure.

Failure to consult the PDMP may result in a non-disciplinary citation by the regulatory board or further discipline. You may register for the PDMP at: <https://florida.pmpaware.net>



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FAQs

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Who must take a continuing education course?

All prescribing practitioners registered with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency to prescribe controlled substances must complete a 2-hour continuing education course.

What is a prescribing practitioner?

Allopathic Physicians, Osteopathic Physicians, Dentists, Podiatric Physicians, Certified Optometrists, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNP)* and Physician Assistants (PA).

*As of Oct. 1, 2018, ARNP will be renamed Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN).

Are there exceptions to who must take the 2-hour course?

Yes. ARNPs and PAs must complete a 3-hour course on the safe and effective prescribing of controlled substance medications.

When must the 2-hour course be completed?

By January 31, 2019, AND at each subsequent licensure renewal.

Where is the course offered?

Go to www.cebroker.com to search for your profession's board-approved courses.

What is the 3-day prescribing limit for acute pain?

A prescription of a Schedule II opioid to alleviate acute pain may not exceed a 3-day supply, codifying the Centers for Disease Control guideline for the treatment of acute pain.

To learn more, visit flhealthsource.gov/FloridaTakeControl

When can a 7-day supply be prescribed?

A prescribing practitioner may prescribe up to a 7-day supply if: (1) the physician determines it is medically necessary; (2) indicates "acute pain exception" on the prescription; AND (3) documents the justification for deviating from the 3-day supply limit in the patient's medical record.

When must all pain management clinics be registered with the DOH as a pain management clinic or hold a certificate of exemption?

By January 1, 2019.

How do I register with the PDMP?

<https://florida.pmpaware.net>

When must a prescriber or dispenser or his or her designee consult the PDMP?

Prior to prescribing or dispensing a controlled substance in Schedules II-V, as defined in section 893.03, Florida Statutes, for patients age 16 and older.

Do I have to consult the PDMP each time I write a prescription, or only at the initial appointment?

The PDMP must be consulted each time a prescription is written for a controlled substance.

If a prescription has refills, am I required to consult the PDMP before dispensing each refill?

Yes, the PDMP must be consulted before dispensing each refill.

Which controlled substances must be reported to the PDMP?

Schedules II, III, IV, and V must all be reported.

The Florida Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance has launched an informational website regarding the Controlled Substances Bill.

flhealthsource.gov/FloridaTakeControl



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