



**TO: All Providers**

**RE: Opioid Legislation**

This bulletin is being issued to provide general information on a new State law that impacts the prescribing of opioids and as a reminder of the responsibilities of both prescribers and pharmacies in the dispensing of all controlled substances.

### **New Limit on Opioid Prescription Length**

Effective July 1, 2016, a new state law sets a **seven-day limit on prescriptions for opioids** for adults and minors. Section 7 of Public Act 16-43 prohibits a prescribing practitioner from issuing a prescription for more than a seven-day supply to: (a) an adult for the first time for outpatient use or (b) a minor at any time. The law allows for an opioid prescription for more than seven days if, in the prescriber's medical judgment, a supply is needed to treat a minor or an adult's medical condition. In such circumstances, however, the prescriber **must** document the condition in the patient's medical record and that an alternative to the opioid drug was not appropriate to address the medical condition.

When issuing a prescription for an opioid drug to a minor for less than a seven-day supply of such drug, the prescribing practitioner shall discuss the risks associated with use of an opioid drug, including, but not limited to, the risks of addiction and overdose associated with opioid drugs and the dangers of taking opioid drugs with alcohol, benzodiazepines and other central nervous system depressants, and the reasons why the prescription is necessary with (1) the minor and (2) the custodial parent, guardian or other person having legal custody of the minor if such parent, guardian or other person is present at the time of issuance.

The full text of Public Act 16-43 may be found at:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2016/ACT/pa/2016PA-00043-R00HB-05053-PA.htm>

The Department of Social Services (DSS) will be monitoring the impact of the new opioid law.

### **Reminder on Controlled Substances**

Since October 1, 2015, all practitioners who prescribe greater than a seventy-two hour supply of any controlled substance (Schedule II-V) are required to review the patient's records in the Connecticut Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System (CPMRS) at [www.ctpmp.com](http://www.ctpmp.com). Also, as of July 1, 2016, any pharmacy, non-resident pharmacy, outpatient pharmacy in a hospital or institution, and dispenser shall report all controlled substance prescriptions dispensed immediately upon dispensing and in no event later than the next business day into the CPMRS Data Collection Web site at [www.ctxreport.com](http://www.ctxreport.com). Public Act 16-43, Sec. 9 stipulates a delay in reporting is allowed in the event the electronic prescription monitoring program is not operational at the time of dispensing.

Pharmacists are also reminded that they are responsible for complying with all policies, procedures, and State and Federal laws related to dispensing and documenting delivery of controlled substances to patients. All documentation must be made available upon request to DSS. Compliance with the documentation and other requirements related to opioids and other controlled substances is subject to audit at any time.