

New Jersey's New Prescribing Law

On February 15, 2017, P.L. 2017, c. 28, was signed into law, imposing certain restrictions on how opioids and other Schedule II controlled dangerous substances may be prescribed. The law went into effect on May 16, 2017 and applies to physicians, dentists, optometrists, podiatrists, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives and advance practice nurses authorized to prescribe controlled substances

With regard to prescriptions for opioid drugs, practitioners are not permitted to issue an initial prescription for an opioid drug for treatment of acute pain in a quantity exceeding a 5 day supply. The amendments also require the prescribing practitioner to discuss with the patient or the patient's parent or guardian the reasons why the medication is being prescribed, the possible alternative treatments, and the risks associated with the medication.

Physicians, physician assistants, dentists and optometrists must complete one CME credit on topics that include responsible prescribing practices, alternatives to opioids for managing and treating pain and the risks and signs of opioid abuse, addiction and diversion.

Information about those rules, as well as guidance for prescribers and patients on safer pain medication prescribing practices is available at www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/prescribing-for-pain.

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