



State of Vermont
Agency of Human Services
280 State Drive, Center Building
Waterbury, VT 05671-1000

Global Commitment Register

July 7, 2017

GCR 16-123
CLARIFICATION

Opioid Prescribing Changes for Acute Pain

Policy Summary:

This policy clarifies that the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) will implement initial prescription limits for opiates used in treating acute pain to align with rule changes made by the Vermont Department of Health (VDH). Effective July 5, 2017, initial opiate prescriptions for patients 18 years of age and older will be limited to 50 Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME) per day and a maximum of 7 days' supply. Patients 17 years of age and younger will be limited to 24 MME per day and a maximum of 3 days' supply. The prescription limits apply only to the *first* prescription filled in an outpatient setting for a given course of treatment and do not apply to renewals or refills. The limits do not apply to long-acting opioids as they are not indicated for acute pain. Supply limits can be exceeded with prior authorization.

Effective Date:

July 5, 2017

Authority/Legal Basis:

[Medicaid State Plan](#)

[Act 75 of 2013](#), Section 14(e)

[Act 173 of 2016](#), Section 2a.

Population Affected:

All Medicaid

Fiscal Impact:

The estimated fiscal impact is up to \$13,679 annually.

Additional information:

[DVHA notice to providers on opioid supply changes](#) can be found at this link.

[VDH Rule Governing the Prescribing of Opioids for Pain](#) – effective July 1, 2017