



# Indiana Pain Management Prescribing Final Rule

**Adopted by the Indiana Medical Licensing Board September 25, 2014**

**Summary created by the Indiana State Medical Association**

## Background

The Medical Licensing Board of Indiana adopted an Emergency Rule on Oct. 24, 2013 that regulates physicians engaged in the practice of pain management prescribing, effective Dec. 15, 2013, pursuant to Senate Enrolled Act 246. The Final Rule was adopted on Sept. 25, 2014. The Final Rule will go into effect approximately the first week of November 2014 (date being finalized). Differences between the Emergency Rule and Final Rule are designated with \*.

## The Prescribing Rule

Applies only to the prescribing of opioid-containing controlled substances for pain management. (See definitions section.)

## Exclusions

The rule does not apply to:

1. Patients with a terminal medical condition (Refer to definitions section.)
2. Residents of an Indiana-licensed health facility
3. Patients enrolled in an Indiana-licensed hospice program
4. Patients enrolled in an inpatient or outpatient palliative care program of an Indiana-licensed hospital or hospice

## Thresholds

The rule applies only if a patient has been prescribed any of the following medications, at these doses and durations:

Drug	Dose	Duration
*Transdermal opioid patch	Any	>3 consecutive months
*Hydrocodone-only Extended Release medication not in abuse - deterrent form	Any	Day 1
*Tramadol** (See explanation below.)	>60 mg MED***/day	>3 consecutive months
Any other opioid-containing controlled substance	>60 pills/month OR >15 mg MED***/day	>3 consecutive months

\*\*Tramadol – The rule only applies to tramadol IF it ever becomes a controlled substance under Indiana law, which is anticipated in 2015. Tramadol became a controlled substance at the federal level on Aug. 18, 2014.

\*\*\*MED = Morphine-equivalent dose, as determined through use of any accepted conversion table.

## Patient Assessment

Physicians must perform their own initial evaluations and risk stratifications of patients, including:

1. Appropriately focused H&P exams and appropriate tests, as indicated
2. Documented attempts to obtain and review records from prior providers
3. Patient-completed pain assessment tools
4. Assessment of patient's mental health status and risk for substance abuse with valid screening tools
5. After initial evaluation, establishment a working diagnosis and tailored treatment plan to meaningful and functional goals. (Review the plan with the patient occasionally.)

## Non-Opioids

Where medically appropriate, the physician must utilize non-opioid options instead of prescribing opioids.

## Patient Informed Consent

- Potential risks and benefits of opioid treatment for chronic pain
- Expectations related to prescription requests
- Proper medication use
- Alternative modalities to opioids for managing pain
- A simple and clear explanation to help patients understand the key elements of their treatment plans
- Counseling for women ages 14 to 55 of child-bearing potential about risk to fetus when a mother has taken chronic opioids during pregnancy (including risk of fetal opioid dependency and neonatal abstinence syndrome)
- Risks of dependency and addiction
- \*Safe storage practices for prescribed opioids
- \*Provision of written warning disclosing the risks associated with taking extended-release medications that are not in an abuse deterrent form (if prescribed)

## Patient Visits

- No prescribing without periodic scheduled visits
- If medication and treatment plan are stable, face-to-face visits at least once every four months
- If changes are still being made to medication and treatment plan, visits at least every two months until stabilized
- During visits, evaluation of progress and compliance with treatment plan regularly and setting of clear expectations along the way (e.g., physical therapy, counseling, other treatment)

## INSPECT Reports

At the outset of the treatment plan, and at least annually thereafter, prescribing physician must run an INSPECT report and document in patient's chart whether it is consistent with the physician's knowledge of the patient's controlled substance use history. (If the patient already met the chronic pain management definition as of Dec. 15, 2013, no initial INSPECT report is required. The annual INSPECT report requirement was postponed to Nov. 1, 2014.)

## Drug Monitoring Tests

\*At any time the physician determines that it is medically necessary, whether at the outset of the treatment plan, or any time thereafter, a prescribing physician shall perform or order a drug monitoring test that must include a confirmatory test using a method selective enough to differentiate individual drugs within a drug class.

\*In determining the medical necessity of a drug monitoring test, the physician shall consider these factors where applicable and reasonably feasible:

1. Whether there is reason to believe a patient is not taking or is diverting the opioids prescribed
2. Whether there has been no appreciable impact on the chronic pain despite being prescribed for a period of time that would generally have an impact
3. Whether there is reason to believe the patient is taking or using controlled substances other than opioids or other drugs or medications including illicit street drugs that might produce significant polypharmacological effects or have other detrimental interaction effects
4. Whether there is reason to believe patient is taking or using additional opioids not prescribed by any treating physician
5. Attempts by patient to obtain early refills of opioid-containing prescriptions
6. Number of instances when patients allege their prescriptions were lost or stolen
7. INSPECT report provides irregular or inconsistent information
8. Previous drug monitoring tests raised concerns about opioid usage
9. Necessity of verifying the patient no longer has substances in their system that are not appropriate under the treatment plan
10. Patient engages in apparent aberrant behaviors or shows apparent intoxication
11. Patient's opioid usage shows an unauthorized dose escalation
12. Patient is reluctant to change medications or is demanding certain medications
13. Patient refuses to participate in or cooperate with a full diagnostic work-up or examination
14. Whether a patient has a history of substance abuse
15. Patient has a health status change (e.g., pregnancy)
16. Co-morbid psychiatric diagnoses
17. Other evidence of chronic opioid use, controlled substance abuse or misuse, illegal drug use or addiction, or medication non-compliance
18. Any other factor the physician believes is relevant to making an informed professional judgment about the medical necessity of a prescription

\*Physicians are required to consider all of the factors in determining whether to order/perform a drug test. However, once a physician determines that a drug test is medically necessary, any remaining factors (of the 18) that have not yet been considered do not have to be considered.

## Daily High Dose Threshold

When opioid dose reaches morphine equivalent dose of >60mg/day, a face-to-face review of treatment plan and patient evaluation must be scheduled, including consideration for a specialist referral. If physician elects to continue treating at that level, physician must develop a revised assessment plan for ongoing treatment and document in the chart, including an assessment of increased risk for adverse outcomes.

## Treatment Agreements\*

With patient, review and sign a "Treatment Agreement" that must include (minimum):

- 1) Goals of the treatment
- 2) Patient's consent to drug-monitoring testing \*when physician determines it is medically necessary
- 3) Physician's prescribing policies, including:
  - a) rule that patient take medication(s) as prescribed
  - b) prohibition on sharing medication(s)
- 4) Requirement that the patient inform the physician:
  - a) about any other controlled substances prescribed or taken by the patient;
  - b) \*if the patient drinks alcohol while taking opioids
- 5) Permission to conduct random pill counts
- 6) Reasons the opioid therapy may be changed or discontinued by the physician

*A copy of the signed agreement must be retained in the patient's chart.*

## Key Definitions (not comprehensive)

**Chronic Pain** – A state in which pain persists beyond the usual course of an acute disease or healing of an injury or that may or may not be associated with an acute or chronic pathologic process that causes continuous or intermittent pain over months or years.

**Terminal** – A condition caused by injury, disease or illness from which, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty:

- 1) No recovery is expected.
- 2) Progression to death can be anticipated as an eventual consequence of that condition.

*This is an unofficial summary. A full, official version of the final rule should be consulted at [www.ismanet.org/go/CSpage](http://www.ismanet.org/go/CSpage) for compliance purposes.*