

Connecticut's Limit on Opioid Drug Prescriptions

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September 22, 2017 | 2017-R-0189

Issue

This report updates OLR Report [2016-R-0232](#), which describes Connecticut's law imposing limits and conditions on the prescription of opioid drugs to adults and minors, including exceptions to the law.

Limit on Opioid Prescriptions

Connecticut law prohibits a practitioner authorized to prescribe an opioid drug from issuing a prescription for more than a seven-day supply to an adult for first-time outpatient use. Legislation passed in 2017 reduced, from a seven-day supply to a five-day supply, the maximum amount of an opioid drug that may be prescribed to a minor under age 18.

When prescribing an opioid drug to a minor, the law requires the practitioner to discuss with the minor along with their custodial parent, guardian, or legal custodian, if present, the risks associated with opioid drug use. Legislation passed in 2017 additionally requires prescribers to have such discussions with adults patients, including:

1. the associated risks of addiction and overdose;
2. the dangers of taking opioid drugs with alcohol, benzodiazepines, and other central nervous system depressants; and
3. the reason why the prescription is necessary ([CGS § 20-14o](#), as amended by [PA 17-131](#)).

Exceptions

The law allows the practitioner to prescribe a larger supply of an opioid drug to a minor or an adult for first-time outpatient use if, in his or her professional judgment, the drug is required to treat the person's acute medical condition, chronic pain, cancer-associated pain, or for palliative care. The practitioner must document the patient's condition in his or her medical record and indicate that an alternative to the opioid drug was not appropriate to treat the patient's condition. The law does not apply to medications to treat opioid drug dependence or abuse, including opioid antagonists and agonists ([CGS § 20-14o](#)).

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