

**SUMMARY OF UPDATES TO
GUIDELINES FOR PRESCRIBING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR PAIN**

Guideline Section	Summary of Update Made to Section
Preamble	Updated to describe current policies and issues
Understanding Pain	Updated to refine definitions to those used in the guidelines and to be consistent w/CDC definitions for Acute Pain, Subacute and Chronic Pain.
Recommended Practices for the Management of Patients with Pain Rearranged document to place this section before additional considerations listed under "Special Patient Populations"	
Patient Evaluation & Risk Stratification	Updated to add hyperlinks to screening and assessment tools
Treatment Plan and Objectives	Integrated info from Consultation section into this section
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient Consent 	Added regulatory requirement related to consent for minors and parents/guardians
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain Management Agreement 	Updated recommendation on when to implement pain management agreement
Initiating Opioid Trial	Eliminated recommendations related to dosages and methods of administration (oral vs. transdermal). Added requirement to check CURES before prescribing
Dosing Recommendations for Opioid Naïve Patients	Eliminated
Morphine Equivalent Dose	Eliminated references to MED dosage limitations. Added hyperlink and info from CDC fact sheet and reference on when to prescribe naloxone
Counseling Patients on Overdose Risk and Response	Made minor edits to existing verbiage and added requirements on when to prescribe naloxone
Ongoing Patient Assessment	Updated to add info from CDC factsheets on Assessing Benefit/Harm of Opioid Therapy and added hyperlinks to Pain Assessment tools. Eliminated verbiage on opioid rotation
Compliance Monitoring	Minor edits to existing verbiage from Pill Counting segment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cures Reports 	Updated to add requirements related to CURES. Recommended checking PAR every 3-6 months and cautioned against terminating patient care based on PAR w/out talking to patient.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urine Drug Testing 	Updated to add info from and hyperlink to CDC Fact Sheet on UDT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pill Counting 	Added explanation of difference between info gleaned from PAR vs. pill counts

Discontinuing Opioid Therapy	Updated to include expanded information on tapering strategies from updated CDC Guidelines, dealing with symptoms of withdrawal, diagnosing OUD and use of buprenorphine. Added recommendation for 30-day notice when terminating patient and provided sample letters.
Medical Records	Expanded description of what experts look for in record documentation and provided sample record documentation.
Supervising Allied Health Professionals	Updated to add supervision parameters for PAs and NPs and identify their authority to prescribe controlled substances
Special Patient Populations	
Acute Pain	Updated to remove specific prescribing and dispensing instruction (i.e., use of extended release/long acting, etc.). Suggested use of CURES to confirm no risk w/existing medications. Added info on offering naloxone if appropriate.
Emergency Departments	Updated to add Urgent Care. Noted exception for ER to obtain a PAR before prescribing but suggested use of PAR to obtain patient history info. Added hyperlink to current ACEP info and toolkit for Safe Pain Prescribing in ED and Urgent Care Centers.
End of Life Pain	Rewritten to add Cancer Pain and to describe Intractable Pain Act/Pain Patients' Bill of Rights. Clarified that guidelines not meant to address palliative or hospice care. Drew distinction between cancer pain and chronic pain management for cancer survivors.
Cancer Pain	
Inherited/Legacy Patients	New section – added summary of joint statement with CDPH
Legal Cannabis Use and Opioids	New section
Older Adults	Updated to add info from updated CDC guidelines
Pediatric Patients	Added regulatory requirement related to consent for minors and parents/guardians. Added caution regarding use of codeine/hydrocodone and hyperlink to assessment tool for adolescents
Pregnant Women	Updated to reflect current 2021 joint opinion from ACOG and ASAM
Patients Covered by Workers' Compensation	Updated to refer physicians to treatment guidelines issued by Dept. of Industrial Relations

Patients with History of Substance Use Disorder	Updated to delete steps already addressed during the initial assessment/risk stratification and other parts of the workup/monitoring. Hyperlinks to screening tools was added.
Psychiatric Patients (renamed to Patients with Psychiatric Conditions)	Updated to be consistent with updated CDC guidelines and added hyperlinks to assessment tools.
Patients Prescribed Benzodiazepines	Updated to be consistent with updated CDC guidelines, added regulatory requirement to prescribe naloxone and added hyperlinks to tapering strategies.
Patients Prescribed Methadone or Buprenorphine for Treatment of a Substance Use Disorder	Integrated info in Acute Pain section and added an updated hyperlink. Section provided info on treating a patient for acute pain while on MAT.
Telehealth	New section