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Contributors

 Gerald L. Aben
Email | 734-214-7648

 Richard Y. Cheng
Email | 214-462-6492

 Jonathan S. Feld
Email | 312-627-5680

 Eric S. Klein
Email | 248-203-0891

 Kathrin E. Kudner
Email | 734-214-7697

 Joanne R. Lax
Email | 248-203-0816

 Donna A. O'Connor
Email | 248-203-0720

 Kathleen A. Reed
Email | 734-214-7661

 Matthew D. Shell
Email | 248-203-0848

 Andrew T. VanEgmond
Email | 734-214-7603

 Michael D. Weis
Email | 312-627-2197

 Monica B. Wilkinson
Email | 313-568-6679

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Reminder: 7-Day Rule for Opioid Prescribing for Acute Pain Starts July 1, 2018

Posted on June 26, 2018 by Kathleen A. Reed

Only a few days remain before the 7-day rule for opioid prescribing goes into effect in Michigan. **Beginning July 1, 2018, a prescriber who is treating a patient for acute pain shall not prescribe more than a 7-day supply of an opioid within a 7-day period.** *Acute pain* is defined by statute as the *normal, predicted physiological response to a noxious chemical, thermal, or mechanical stimulus that is typically associated with invasive procedures, trauma, and disease, and that usually lasts for a limited time.*

Here are a few key points to remember about the 7-day opioid rule:

- The 7-day rule *applies only to opioid prescribing*. It does not apply to controlled substances that are not considered opioids.
- The 7-day rule *applies regardless of patient care setting*. The 7-day rule must be followed when patients are seen in a private office, hospital, nursing facility, hospice, outpatient clinic, surgery center, or any other setting.
- The 7-day rule *applies only to prescribing intended to address acute pain*. If the patient's pain which the prescriber is treating with the opioid does not fit within the statutory definition of acute pain, the 7-day rule does not apply. The statute does not provide a definition of chronic or other types of pain for comparison purposes.

The 7-day rule becomes effective shortly after the effective dates of other Michigan opioid and controlled substance legislation. Most recently, the new MAPS query requirements and mandated use of the Opioid Start Talking Form became effective on June 1, 2018. Look [here](#) for a summary of all of the 2017 Michigan controlled substance and opioid legislation and their effective dates.

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