



**Louisiana Department of Health**  
**Informational Bulletin 17-2**  
**February 10, 2017**

**Opioid Epidemic**

Drug overdose deaths continue to increase in the United States. More than 60 percent of these deaths involve an opioid. Since 1999, the number of overdose deaths involving opioids has quadrupled. The quantity of opioids prescribed and sold in the United States has also quadrupled during this time, although the overall amount of pain reported by patients has not changed. Louisiana is one of the top 10 states for opioid prescriptions written per person and has seen a steadily increasing number of overdose deaths since 1999.

In response to the opioid epidemic, the Louisiana Department of Health encourages healthcare providers to utilize available tools for dosing and monitoring opioid medications. These tools can help the provider ensure that the patient is not receiving opioid dosages or dangerous combinations that put him or her at high risk for overdose.

The following information regarding prescription opioid medications and the treatment of pain has been compiled to assist Louisiana Medicaid providers.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**  
**Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids**

*Why Guidelines for Primary Care Providers?*

[https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/guideline\\_infographic-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/guideline_infographic-a.pdf)

*CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain — United States, 2016*

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6501e1.htm>

*Turn the Tide Pocket Guide: Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain*

[https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/turnthetide\\_pocketguide-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/turnthetide_pocketguide-a.pdf)

*CDC Opioid Guidelines At-A-Glance*

[https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/guidelines\\_at-a-glance-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/guidelines_at-a-glance-a.pdf)

*CDC Opioid Guideline Mobile App*

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/app.html>

*Common Elements in Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain*

[https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/common\\_elements\\_in\\_guidelines\\_for\\_prescribing\\_opioids-20160125-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/common_elements_in_guidelines_for_prescribing_opioids-20160125-a.pdf)

## Additional Resources

### Drug and Alcohol Abuse Screening Tools

*NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse Evidence-based Drug and Alcohol Screening Tools for Adults and Adolescents*

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/nidamed-medical-health-professionals/tool-resources-your-practice/screening-assessment-drug-testing-resources/chart-evidence-based-screening-tools-adults>

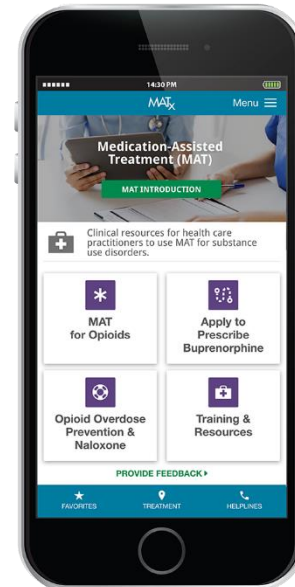
### Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

*Medication-Assisted Treatment*

<https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment>

*SAMHSA's Medication-Assisted Treatment App (MATx)*

<http://store.samhsa.gov/apps/mat/>



### Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MMEs)

*Calculating Total Daily Dose of Opioids for Safer Dosage*

[https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/calculating\\_total\\_daily\\_dose-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/calculating_total_daily_dose-a.pdf)

*Washington State Agency Medical Directors' Group Opioid Dose Calculator*

<http://www.agencymeddirectors.wa.gov/opioiddosing.asp>

### Naloxone

*State of Louisiana Naloxone Standing Order*

<http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/BehavioralHealth/Opioids/Naloxonestandingorder.pdf>

*What is Naloxone?*

<https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/treatment/naloxone>

### Nonopioid Treatments for Chronic Pain

*Nonopioid Treatments for Chronic Pain*

[https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/alternative\\_treatments-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/alternative_treatments-a.pdf)

*National Safety Council: Over-the-counter pain medications are more effective for acute pain than prescribed painkillers*

<http://www.nsc.org/learn/about/Pages/Over-the-counter-pain-medications.aspx>

*Louisiana Medicaid Provider Update, December 2016: Nonopioid Treatment for Chronic Pain*

[http://www.lamedicaid.com/Providerupdate/provider\\_update\\_12\\_16.pdf](http://www.lamedicaid.com/Providerupdate/provider_update_12_16.pdf)

## Opioid Continuing Medical Education (CME) for Providers

*SAMHSA's Opioid Prescribing Courses for Health Care Providers*

<https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/training-resources/opioid-courses>

*NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse: Opioid Pain Management CMEs and CEs*

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/opioid-pain-management-cmesces>



**SAFER PRESCRIBING AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.**

DOWNLOAD THE OPIOID GUIDE APP TODAY

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

More than **40** PEOPLE die every day from overdoses involving **prescription opioids.**

## Opioid Overdose Prevention

*Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services*

*Administration (SAMHSA) Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit*

<https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/tools-learning-resources/opioid-overdose-prevention-toolkit>

## Opioid Patient-Prescriber Treatment Agreement Samples

*Sample Patient Agreement Forms*

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/sites/default/files/files/SamplePatientAgreementForms.pdf>

## Patient Information

*Prescription Opioids: What You Need to Know*

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/aha-patient-opioid-factsheet-a.pdf>

*Promoting Safer and More Effective Pain Management*

[https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/guidelines\\_factsheet-patients-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/guidelines_factsheet-patients-a.pdf)

*Pregnancy and Opioid Pain Medications*

[https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/pregnancy\\_opioid\\_pain\\_factsheet-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/pregnancy_opioid_pain_factsheet-a.pdf)

## **Prescriptive Authority: Louisiana Board of Pharmacy**

*Prescribers with Authority for Controlled Substances*

<http://www.pharmacy.la.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=85>

## **Prescription Monitoring Programs**

*What Health Care Providers Need to Know about PDMPs?*

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdmp/providers.html>

*Louisiana Board of Pharmacy Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)*

<http://www.pharmacy.la.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=5>

## **Risks and Benefits**

*Assessing Benefits and Harms of Opioid Therapy*

[https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/assessing\\_benefits\\_harms\\_of\\_opioid\\_therapy-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/assessing_benefits_harms_of_opioid_therapy-a.pdf)

*FDA Drug Safety Communication Regarding the Combined Use of Opioids & Benzodiazepines*

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm518473.htm>

*The Effectiveness and Risks of Long-Term Opioid Treatment of Chronic Pain*

<https://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/evidence-based-reports/opoidstp.html>

## **Tapering Opioids for Chronic Pain**

*CDC Pocket Guide: Tapering Opioids for Chronic Pain*

[https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/clinical\\_pocket\\_guide\\_tapering-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/clinical_pocket_guide_tapering-a.pdf)

*Louisiana Medicaid Provider Update, Nov 2016: Tapering Opioids for Chronic Pain*

[http://www.lamedicaid.com/Providerupdate/provider\\_update\\_11\\_16.pdf](http://www.lamedicaid.com/Providerupdate/provider_update_11_16.pdf)