

243 CMR 2.07(25)

(25) Prescribing Hydrocodone-Only Extended-Release Medication.

Prior to prescribing a hydrocodone-only extended release medication that is not in an abuse deterrent form, a licensee must

- (a) Thoroughly assess the patient, including an evaluation of the patient's risk factors, substance abuse history, presenting condition(s), current medication(s), a determination that other pain management treatments are inadequate, and a check of the patient's data through the online Prescription Monitoring Program;
- (b) Discuss the risks and benefits of the medication with the patient;
- (c) Enter into a Pain Management Treatment Agreement with the patient that shall appropriately address drug screening, pill counts, safe storage and disposal and other requirements based on the patient's diagnoses, treatment plan, and risk assessment unless a Pain Management Treatment Agreement is not clinically indicated due to the severity of the patient's medical condition;
- (d) Supply a Letter of Medical Necessity as required by the Board of Registration in Pharmacy pursuant to 247 CMR 9.04(8)(c); and
- (e) Document 243 CMR 2.07(25)(a)-(d) in the patient's medical record.

The purpose of 243 CMR 2.07(25) is to enhance the public health and welfare by promoting optimum therapeutic outcomes, avoiding patient injury and eliminating medication errors. Nothing in 243 CMR 2.07(25) shall alter the standard of care a licensee must use when prescribing any Schedule II, III or IV controlled substance.