The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Bureau of Health Professions Licensure

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**Circular Letter:** **DCP 17-2-670**

**TO:** Massachusetts Controlled Substance Registrants

**FROM:** Eric Sheehan, J.D.

Director, Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

James Lavery

Director, Bureau of Health Professions Licensure

**DATE:** February 06, 2017

**RE:** “Narcotic Drug” Definition Clarification

As of October 15, 2016, new state law[[1]](#footnote-1) went into effect requiring a licensed prescriber to utilize the Massachusetts Prescription Awareness Tool (MassPAT) each time a prescription is issued for a Schedule II or III narcotic drug, as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 94c of the Massachusetts General Laws.

To facilitate compliance with this mandate, the Department wishes to clarify the term “narcotic”. We understand that some prescribers may refer to these drugs as opioids.

The following is a list of all opioid Schedule II and III generic drug products that are narcotic drugs contained in Schedule II or III as of December, 2016. Please note that the list below includes names of generic drug products only. Prescribers must check the MassPAT system each time a generic drug product, brand name equivalent of a drug product, or derivative of a drug product in the list below is prescribed.

**Narcotic Drugs Contained in Schedule II or III (NOTE: List contains generic-only)**

Buprenorphine

Codeine (and its derivatives), including hydrocodone

Fentanyl (and its derivatives)

Meperidine

Methadone

Morphine (and its derivatives) including hydromorphone

Opium (including DTO)

Oxycodone

Questions or concerns regarding this information should be directed to: MAPMP.DPH@State.MA.US

1. Subsection (c) of Section 24A of Chapter 94C of the General Laws, as amended by Section 27 of Chapter 52 of the Acts of 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)