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Opioid and Controlled Substance Treatment

Due to the recent and abrupt closure of a pain management clinic in Brockton, Massachusetts, approximately 50 patients will need to be transitioned to new providers for pain management treatment. The purpose of this statement is to offer expectations for the treatment of individuals on opioids or other controlled substances and to encourage the timely transition of these impacted patients to continued care.

The Bureau of Health Professions Licensure wants to ensure licensees accepting new patients on existing chronic opioid therapy or other controlled substances do not feel pressured to rapidly change a patient's current dose and that patients who have a medical need for controlled substances continue to receive necessary treatment within acceptable standards of practice and clinical judgment.

In alignment with this statement and CDC guidelines, there are no set regulatory limits on the daily dosage of opioids or other controlled substances that can be prescribed in Massachusetts. There is no legal requirement to rapidly taper or discontinue opioids or other controlled substances for patients on existing opioid or other controlled substances doses.

Please note that a more comprehensive memo is forthcoming with additional information and resources.