



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Professions Licensure
Board of Registration in Nursing
239 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

Tel: 617-973-0900
TTY : 617-973-0988
<http://www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn>

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary
MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

September 15, 2016

To: Massachusetts Nursing and Professional Healthcare Organizations
From: Laurie Talarico, MS, RN, CNP Nursing Practice Coordinator
Re: Revised Advisory Ruling 0901: *Management of Pain*

At the September 14, 2016 Board of Registration in Nursing (Board) meeting, the Board revised Advisory Ruling (AR) 0901: *Management of Pain* to ensure compliance with current statutes, regulations and scope of practice standards.

The AR guides the practice nursing in promoting patient access to appropriate, therapeutic and effective assessment, diagnosis and management of acute and chronic pain.

Chapter 52 of the Acts of 2016 (signed into law in March, 2016) amended section M.G.L. c. 94C, s. 18(e) by providing for three additional educational topics that must be completed prior to obtaining or renewing an APRN's (with prescriptive authority) Board authorization to practice:

1. the risks of abuse and addiction associated with opioid medication;
2. appropriate prescription quantities for prescription medications that have an increased risk of abuse; and
3. opioid antagonists, overdose prevention treatments and instances in which a patient may be advised on both the use of and ways to access opioid antagonists and overdose prevention treatments.

AR 0901: *Management of Pain* revisions:

1. Update Advisory Ruling 0901: *Management of Pain* to include M.G.L. c. 94C, s. 18(e) additional educational requirements:
 - the risks of abuse and addiction associated with opioid medication;
 - appropriate prescription quantities for prescription medications that have an increased risk of abuse; and
 - opioid antagonists, overdose prevention treatments and instances in which a patient may be advised on both the use of and ways to access opioid antagonists and overdose prevention treatments.

2. Retain the Board's standards for appropriate pain management programs to those:
 - a. that meet the Board's regulatory requirements at 244 CMR 5.00 without regard for a specific number of contact hours; and
 - b. to which APRNs with prescriptive authority attest to completing prior to each renewal period.

Please take a moment to review the entire [Advisory Ruling 0901](#).