



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Professions Licensure
239 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

Circular Letter: DCP 17-2-670

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000
www.mass.gov/dph

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 law¹ 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