

What is a Treatment Agreement?

A treatment agreement is a document signed by a healthcare provider and a patient who is prescribed a controlled substance medication.

The treatment agreement is used to get consent from the patient, explain the prescribing policies of the healthcare provider, educate the patient on risks and side effects of their medication and how to safely take, store, and get rid of their medication.

Pennsylvania law (Act 112 of 2019) requires healthcare providers to have treatment agreements with patients when treating chronic pain with a controlled substance.

More information on Act 112 of 2019:

- Act 112 of 2019 affects patients who are starting a new opioid treatment for chronic pain.
- Treatment agreements must include the patient's consent to urine drug testing. The patient's healthcare provider may decide, based on their professional judgement, if drug screening is needed and how often to drug screen.
- Patients may want to find out if urine drug testing is covered by their health insurance and talk to their healthcare provider if it is not.
- Treatment agreements are not required for patients who are experiencing a medical emergency, pain management associated with cancer, or palliative or hospice care.

What is a controlled substance?

Controlled substances are drugs that have a greater chance for misuse.

An example of a controlled substance is an opioid.

What is an opioid?

Opioids are chemicals that help with pain by lowering the level of pain signals that get to the brain.

Examples of opioids are: hydrocodone, oxycodone (OxyContin or Percocet), hydrocodone (Vicodin), and morphine.

Sometimes healthcare providers prescribe opioids to treat chronic pain, but they can have serious risks and side effects.



Patient Advocacy Program

Patients who have questions or concerns can contact the Patient Advocacy Program.

Email ra-dh-advocacy@pa.gov or call 844-377-7367, Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Find more information at: bit.ly/patientadvocacyPA

What to Ask Your Healthcare Provider Before Taking Opioids

Every patient should ask questions when getting a new prescription. This is especially important when your healthcare provider prescribes you an opioid like hydrocodone, oxycodone, codeine, or morphine. They can have serious risks and side effects.



Ask your healthcare provider these questions before taking opioids:

- 1.** Why do I need this medication?
- 2.** Are there non-opioid options that could help with my pain?
- 3.** What are the risks and side effects of opioids?
- 4.** What if I or my family members have a history of addiction or mental health concerns?
- 5.** How do I safely store and get rid of unused opioids?
- 6.** How often will I have to do urine drug testing?
- 7.** Could this treatment interact with my other medications?
- 8.** Can I share this medication with someone else? Why not?
- 9.** What are the signs of overdose and where can I get Naloxone?

Naloxone is available through a state-wide standing order, which means you do not need a prescription. If your healthcare provider does not have Naloxone, most pharmacies carry it.

For more information, visit: www.pa.gov/opioids