

Duke Health Pain Management and Opioid Surveillance

COVID-19 UPDATE: IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PRESCRIBERS OF OPIOIDS

Information on current availability of drugs from the Drug Enforcement Agency

National Drug Supply

DEA is working with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on monitoring the supply of controlled substances and is in touch with controlled substance manufacturers, distributors, and importers, and is unaware of any drug shortages at this time.

For up to date information on this please visit:

<https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/coronavirus.html>

Resources at Duke

We have developed a brief informational flyer for patients on this topic that you may incorporate into your After Visit Summary.

Telemedicine and the prescription of controlled substance

While a prescription for a controlled substance issued by means of the Internet (including telemedicine) must generally be predicated on an in-person medical evaluation ([21 U.S.C. 829\(e\)](#)), the Controlled Substances Act contains certain exceptions to this requirement.

One such exception occurs when the Secretary of Health and Human Services has declared a public health emergency under 42 U.S.C. 247d (section 319 of the Public Health Service Act), as set forth in 21 U.S.C. 802(54)(D). Secretary Azar declared such a public health emergency with regard to COVID-19 on January 31, 2020.

For as long as the Secretary's designation of a public health emergency remains in effect, DEA-registered practitioners may issue prescriptions for controlled substances to patients for whom they have not conducted an in-person medical evaluation, provided all of the following conditions are met:

- The prescription is issued for a legitimate medical purpose by a practitioner acting in the usual course of his/her professional practice
- The telemedicine communication is conducted using an audio-visual, real-time, two-way interactive communication system.
- The practitioner is acting in accordance with applicable Federal and State law.

For more information:

<https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/coronavirus.html>

Telemedicine and the prescription of medication assisted treatment

For information on the prescription of Medication Assisted Treatment, please refer to the following links

DEA Guidance: [Exemption Allowing Alternate Delivery Methods for OTPs](#)

DEA Guidance: [Use of Telemedicine While Providing Medication Assisted Treatment \(MAT\)](#)