

# PROVIDER Bulletin



## KERN HEALTH SYSTEMS

May 9, 2022

### **RE: PDMP/CURES (Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System)**

Dear Provider,

Although coverage and billing of opioids are managed by the state, KHS would like to share best practice standards when considering opioid therapy. As a reminder, when writing prescriptions for controlled substance medications, CURES should be reviewed prior to prescribing or dispensing. This is crucial for promoting patient safety and hindering diversion.

As a reminder, the CDC has provided guidance for prescribing opioids and other centrally acting agents to manage chronic pain. The guidelines have thresholds outlining when to initiate naloxone and justification of high dose opioid. The consensus being to start at the lowest effective dose for the shortest amount of time to adequately control the condition. Continuation of opioid therapy should only occur if there is clinically meaningful improvement in pain and function, where the benefits outweigh the risks.

To access the CURES website, please visit:

<https://oag.ca.gov/cures>

To access the 2016 CDC guidelines, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6501e1.htm>

The CDC has proposed updates which are still open for comments but can be reviewed by visiting:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/02/10/2022-02802/proposed-2022-cdc-clinical-practice-guideline-for-prescribing-opioids>

KHS posts all bulletins on the KHS website, [www.kernfamilyhealthcare.com](http://www.kernfamilyhealthcare.com), choose Provider, then Bulletins.

For any questions, please contact your Provider Relations Representative at 1-800-391-2000.

Sincerely,

Bruce Wearda  
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Kern Health Systems