

[Policy for the Use of Opiates for the Treatment of Pain](#)

A provision of the 2015 state appropriations act, which the Governor signed into law mandates utilization of [Policy for the Use of Opiates for the Treatment of Pain](#) as the statewide standard for responsible prescribing of these medications.

[Section 12F.16.\(a\) of Session Law 2015-241](#) requires certain state health provider licensing boards and health agencies within state government to adopt the NCMB policy by July 1, 2016. This decision was motivated in part by a 2014 report to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee. The report concluded that NC needs to strengthen its monitoring and prevention of prescription opioid abuse and specifically noted that North Carolina prescribers lack clear, authoritative standards for treating pain with prescription opioid medications.

The [Policy for the Use of Opiates for the Treatment of Pain](#), provides detailed guidance for clinicians seeking to provide appropriate patient care to individuals with a legitimate need for treatment while following accepted best practices to prevent abuse, misuse and diversion of opioid painkillers.