



Berkshire Facial Surgery, Inc.

Oral Surgery and Dental Implant Center

According to the recently updated regulations of Massachusetts, our office is mandated to abide by the following new laws regarding prescription **opioids** also known as *narcotics*.

Opioid Bill Notice

1. 7 Day Restriction on the supply of opioids that may be prescribed.

Effective immediately Massachusetts law establishes a maximum seven day supply on prescriptions for opioids when issued to an adult for the first time. The law also sets a maximum seven day supply on all opioid prescriptions for minors.

A prescriber may issue a prescription for more than a seven day supply of an opioid to adult or minor patients if, in the prescriber's medical judgment, a greater supply is necessary to treat an acute medical condition, chronic pain, pain associated with a cancer diagnosis or for palliative care. In such a case, the condition must be documented in the patient's medical record and the prescriber must indicate that a non-opioid alternative was not appropriate to address the medical condition.

This new law does not apply to opioid medications that are designed for the treatment of substance abuse or opioid dependence.

2. Partial fill of opioids at patient's direction.

Massachusetts law enables patients to direct pharmacies to dispense less than the fully prescribed quantity of an opioid. If dispensed in this manner, the prescription is void as to any quantity not dispensed.

Information for patients and caregivers about opioid pain medications

Opioid medications are used to treat and control pain. These medications may be needed at home after surgery. It is important for the patient and any involved caregiver to understand safe use of these medications. Use of opioids requires a fine balance between effective pain control and dangerous side effects. The goal is to obtain a **safe balance** between pain control and side effects.

Opioids can be used without any problems. However, it is important to know that there is potential for abuse and addiction. Prescription Opioids must be used as prescribed by your provider. The providers at Berkshire Facial Surgery prescribe these medications for a limited and specific time period. These medications must never be shared with anyone else. Any unused opioids can be taken back to your pharmacy for proper disposal.