

Michigan's Opioid Legislation Changes

What does this mean to MPC's Patients?

In 2017, the Michigan state legislature passed several new laws aimed at curbing the opioid epidemic. Some of these laws only affect our internal workflows, but others may be noticed by our patients.

Outlined below are some of the areas that you may notice new workflows in your interactions with our staff and providers:

3/27/18 Effective Date:

- At every visit and every refill (including phone refills), our staff will be required to ask our patients what other controlled substances they are on, and this must be recorded in the chart. This will be cross-referenced with the MAPS Report (see below). We recognize that many of our patients may not know what is considered a "controlled substance". Therefore, we have attached a list of the most common controlled substance medications. **Please review this closely and ensure that you have listed all controlled substances, along with all medications on your new patient form, or follow up visit form.**

6/1/18 Effective Date:

- MAPS (Michigan Automated Prescription Monitoring System) Report - Must be run at every visit and every refill. The new law requires the prescribing provider to review these reports prior to prescribing any opioid medications. Examples of what the providers will be reviewing these reports for include: multiple opioid prescribers, inconsistencies between patient's medical record, patient's verbal report and MAPS reports.
- By law, MAPS reports may not be released to the patient or other healthcare providers, or with a medical records request by any entity.
- Informed Consent, i.e. "Start Talking Form" – The state has provided a "Start Talking" form that must be filled out at the start of every new opioid prescription, and signed by the patient. The purpose of this form is to educate patients of risks associated with opioid use. You can expect to sign a new "start talking" form at every MPC visit where medications are reviewed and prescribed and/or any time a new opioid medication may be started for you.

Additionally, many insurance companies and even pharmacy chains are putting new policies into place that limit the types and amounts of opioids that can be prescribed and are also requiring evidence that a patient has attempted weaning from opioids and have tried other non-opioid methods of pain control. MPC remains committed, as we have always been, to decreasing patients' reliance on opioids for pain control, utilizing a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach to chronic pain management.