

On Monday, July 16, 2018, the Wolf Administration introduced opioid prescribing guidelines for workers' compensation to help healthcare providers determine when opioids are appropriate for treatment of someone injured on the job.

"In 2017, there were 174,216 workers' compensation claims made in Pennsylvania, and our state ranks third highest in the nation in the percentage of injured workers who become long-term opioid users," Governor Tom Wolf said. "These prescribing guidelines will help to ensure that health care providers who treat patients with work-related injuries have the guidance they need. I thank the members of the Prescribing Guidelines Task Force for all of their hard work in developing this essential guidance."

The guidelines are designed to:

- Promote delivery of safe, quality health care to injured workers.
- Ensure patient pain relief and functional improvement.
- Be used in conjunction with other treatment guidelines, not in lieu of other recommended treatment.
- Prevent and reduce the number of complications caused by prescription medication, including addiction.
- Recommend opioid prescribing practices that promote functional restoration.

"The workers' compensation prescribing guidelines are intended to supplement, not replace clinical judgment," Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine said. "These prescribing guidelines add to the 10 others we have developed for health care practitioners like dentists, OB/GYN and emergency room physicians. We are constantly reviewing and updating these guidelines as medical research and evidence move the science forward."

The guidelines include recommendations for the treatment of acute, subacute and post-operative pain; and treatment of chronic pain.

View opioid prescribing guidelines [Safe Prescribing for Workers' Compensation](#).