



Ohio Administrative Code

Rule 4731-29-01 Standards and procedures for the operation of a pain management clinic.

Effective: January 31, 2026

(A) For the purposes of this rule:

(1) "Board" means state medical board of Ohio.

(2) "Chronic pain" means pain that has persisted after reasonable medical efforts have been made to relieve the pain or cure its cause and that has continued, either continuously, or episodically, for longer than three continuous months. "Chronic pain" does not include pain associated with a terminal condition or with a progressive disease that, in the normal course of progression, may reasonably be expected to result in a terminal condition.

(3) "Hospital" means an institution or facility that provides inpatient medical or surgical services for a continuous period longer than twenty-four hours as defined in section 3722.01 of the Revised Code.

(4) "Informed consent" means a process of communication between a patient and physician that results in the patient's signed authorization or agreement to undergo a specific medical intervention after all of the following subjects are discussed:

(a) The patient's diagnosis;

(b) The nature and purpose of the proposed treatment or procedure;

(c) The risks and benefits of a proposed treatment or procedure;

(d) Alternatives regardless of their costs or the extent to which the treatment options are covered by health insurance;

(e) The risks and benefits of the alternative treatment or procedure; and



(f) The risks and benefits of not receiving or undergoing a treatment or procedure.

(5) "Owner" means each person included on the list maintained under division (B)(6) of section 4729.552 of the Revised Code.

(6) "Pain management clinic" means a facility in which the majority of patients of the prescribers at the facility are provided treatment for chronic pain that includes the use of controlled substances. In determining whether the facility meets the requirements of this paragraph:

(a) Calculation of the majority of patients will be based upon the number of patients treated in a calendar month;

(b) Patients receiving controlled substances for treatment of an injury or illness that lasts or is expected to last thirty days or less shall not be considered in the calculation of the majority.

(7) "Pain management clinic" does not include the following:

(a) A hospital;

(b) A facility operated by a hospital for the treatment of pain or chronic pain;

(c) A physician practice owned or controlled, in whole or in part, by a hospital or by an entity that owns or controls, in whole or in part, one or more hospitals;

(d) A school, college, university, or other educational institution or program to the extent that it provides instruction to individuals preparing to practice as physicians, podiatrists, dentists, nurses, physician assistants, optometrists, or veterinarians or any affiliated facility to the extent that it participates in the provision of that instruction;

(e) A hospice program licensed under Chapter 3712. of the Revised Code;

(f) An ambulatory surgical facility licensed under section 3702.30 of the Revised Code;



- (g) An interdisciplinary pain rehabilitation program with three-year accreditation from the commission on accreditation of rehabilitation facilities;
- (h) A nursing home licensed under section 3721.02 of the Revised Code or by a political subdivision certified under section 3721.09 of the Revised Code; or
- (i) A facility conducting only clinical research that may use controlled substances in studies approved by a hospital-based institutional review board or an institutional review board accredited by the association for the accreditation of human research protection programs.

(8) "Physician" means an individual authorized under chapter 4731. of the Revised Code to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery.

(9) "Prescriber" has the same meaning as in section 4729.01 of the Revised Code.

(B) In the operation of a pain management clinic, the following requirements shall be met:

(1) The pain management clinic shall be owned and operated by one or more physicians. Each physician owner of a pain management clinic shall complete at least twenty hours of category I continuing medical education in pain medicine every two years, to include one or more courses addressing the potential for addiction. The courses completed in compliance with this rule shall be accepted toward meeting the category I requirement for certificate of registration renewal for the physician.

(2) Each physician owner of a pain management clinic must meet one of the following requirements:

- (a) Hold current subspecialty certification in pain medicine by the American board of medical specialties, or hold a current certificate of added qualification in pain medicine by the American osteopathic association bureau of osteopathic specialists; or
- (b) Hold current subspecialty certification in hospice and palliative medicine by the American board of medical specialties, or hold a current certificate of added qualification in hospice and palliative



medicine by the American osteopathic association bureau of osteopathic specialists; or

(c) Hold current board certification by the American board of pain medicine; or

(d) Hold current board certification by the American board of interventional pain physicians; or

(e) Meet both of the following:

(i) Hold current board certification in anesthesiology, psychiatry, neurology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, occupational medicine, or rheumatology by the American board of medical specialties or hold current primary certification in anesthesiology, psychiatry, neurology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, occupational medicine, or rheumatology by the American osteopathic association bureau of osteopathic specialists.

(ii) Demonstrate conformance with the minimal standards of care.

(3) To demonstrate conformance with the minimal standards of care pursuant to paragraph (B)(2)(e)(ii) of this rule, the board shall conduct an inspection of the facility pursuant to division (E) of section 4731.054 of the Revised Code.

(4) The pain management clinic shall be licensed as a category III terminal distributor of dangerous drugs with a pain management clinic classification under section 4729.552 of the Revised Code.

(5) The pain management clinic shall be operated in compliance with Chapters 3719., 4729., 4730., and 4731. of the Revised Code, and all applicable provisions of federal law governing the possession, distribution or use of controlled substances.

(6) The pain management clinic shall have proper equipment, materials, and personnel on premises to provide appropriate medical treatment, as required by the minimal standards of care.

(C) Each physician who provides care at a pain management clinic shall complete at least twenty hours of category I continuing medical education in pain medicine every two years, to include one or more courses addressing the potential for addiction. The courses completed in compliance with this



rule shall be accepted toward meeting the category I requirement for certificate of registration renewal for the physician.

(D) No physician owner of a pain management clinic, employee of the clinic, or person with whom the clinic contracts for services shall:

(1) Have ever been denied a license to prescribe, dispense, administer, supply, or sell a controlled substance by the drug enforcement administration or appropriate issuing body of any state or jurisdiction, based, in whole or in part, on the prescriber's inappropriate prescribing, dispensing, administering, supplying or selling a controlled substance or other dangerous drug.

(2) Have held a license issued by the drug enforcement administration or a state licensing agency in any jurisdiction, under which the person may prescribe, dispense, administer, supply or sell a controlled substance, that has ever been restricted, based, in whole or in part, on the prescriber's inappropriate prescribing, dispensing, administering, supplying, or selling a controlled substance or other dangerous drug.

(3) Have been subject to disciplinary action by any licensing entity that was based, in whole or in part, on the prescriber's inappropriate prescribing, dispensing, diverting, administering, supplying or selling a controlled substance or other dangerous drug.

(E) In providing supervision, direction, and control of individuals at a pain management clinic the physician owner shall establish and ensure compliance with the following:

(1) A requirement that a log of patients be maintained for each day the clinic is in operation.

(a) Each log sheet shall contain the month, day, and year;

(b) Each log entry shall include the legible first and last name of each patient;

(c) Each patient shall be required to sign the log at each visit; and

(d) Patient logs shall be maintained for seven years.



- (2) A requirement that providers obtain informed consent for each patient prior to the commencement of treatment.
- (3) An on-going quality assurance program that objectively and systematically monitors and evaluates the quality and appropriateness of patient care, evaluates methods to improve patient care, identifies and corrects deficiencies within the clinic, and provides the opportunities to improve the clinic's performance and quality of care.
- (4) A requirement that the background, training, certification, and licensure of all clinical staff be documented. Verification of certification and licensure shall be made on an annual basis.
- (5) A requirement that adequate billing records are maintained for all patients and made available to the board, immediately upon request.
 - (a) Billing records shall include the amount paid, method of payment, description of services, sufficient information to identify the patient, and the amounts charged to the patient for each date of service,
 - (b) Billing records shall be maintained for seven years from the last date of treatment of the patient.
- (6) A requirement that adequate patient records are maintained for all patients and made available to the board, immediately upon request.
 - (a) Patient records shall contain sufficient information to identify the patient, support the diagnosis, justify the treatment and document the course and results of treatment accurately, by including, at a minimum:
 - (i) Patient history and physical examination, including history of drug abuse or dependence;
 - (ii) Diagnostic, therapeutic, and laboratory results, including drug testing results;
 - (iii) Reports of evaluations, consultations, and hospitalizations;



- (iv) Treatment objectives, including discussion of risks and benefits;
- (v) Records of drugs prescribed, dispensed or administered, including the date, type, and dosage;
- (vi) Treatments;
- (vii) Receipt and assessment of drug database or prescription monitoring program reports;
- (viii) Copies of records or reports or other documentation obtained from other health care practitioners at the request of the physician and relied upon by the physician in determining the appropriate treatment of the patient. Records provided by the patient shall be designated as such.

(b) Patient records shall be maintained for seven years from the last date of treatment of the patient.

(c) In the treatment of chronic pain the patient records shall contain the information required in rule 4731-11-14 of the Administrative Code in lieu of the requirements of paragraphs (E)(6)(a)(i) to (E)(6)(a)(vi) of this rule.