

Effective January 1, 2018

"§ 90-106. Prescriptions and labeling.

(a3) Limitation on Prescriptions Upon Initial Consultation for Acute Pain.

A practitioner may not prescribe more than a five-day supply of any targeted controlled substance upon the initial consultation and treatment of a patient for acute pain, unless the prescription is for post-operative acute pain relief for use immediately following a surgical procedure. A practitioner shall not prescribe more than a seven-day supply of any targeted controlled substance for post-operative acute pain relief immediately following a surgical procedure. Upon any subsequent consultation for the same pain, the practitioner may issue any appropriate renewal, refill, or new prescription for a targeted controlled substance. This subsection does not apply to prescriptions for controlled substances issued by a practitioner who orders a controlled substance to be wholly administered in a hospital, nursing home licensed under Chapter 131E of the General Statutes, hospice facility, or residential care facility as defined in G.S. 14-32.2(c1).

(a4) Definitions. – As used in this subsection, the following terms have the following meanings:

- (1) Acute pain. – Pain, whether resulting from disease, accident, intentional trauma, or other cause, that the practitioner reasonably expects to last for three months or less. The term does not include chronic pain or pain being treated as part of cancer care, hospice care, palliative care, or medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorder.
- (2) Chronic pain. – Pain that typically lasts for longer than three months or that lasts beyond the time of normal tissue healing.
- (3) Surgical procedure. – A procedure that is performed for the purpose of structurally altering the human body by incision or destruction of tissues as part of the practice of medicine. This term includes the diagnostic or therapeutic treatment of conditions or disease processes by use of instruments such as lasers, ultrasound, ionizing radiation, scalpels, probes, or needles that cause localized alteration or transportation of live human tissue by cutting, burning, vaporizing, freezing, suturing, probing, or manipulating by closed reduction for major dislocations and fractures, or otherwise altering by any mechanical, thermal, light-based, electromagnetic, or chemical means

Targeted Controlled Substances

Provisions of the STOP Act only apply to “targeted controlled substances” which includes all schedule II and III opioids as listed in [G.S. 90-90\(1\) & \(2\)](#) and [G.S. 90-91\(d\)](#)