



## Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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## DEA Amends Opiate Dispensing Rule for Treating Addiction

August 9, 2023

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration published a final rule that went into effect on August 8, 2023. The rule relaxed and increased what physicians may do in the emergency treatment of opiate addiction. The rule that was amended was 21 CFR 1306.07(b).

The previous rule stated that when a patient visited a physician to be treated for addiction, the physician was only authorized to **administer** a narcotic substance to the patient for relief of symptoms. The doctor could not dispense a supply of drugs and the doctor could not issue a prescription. The doctor was only allowed to administer a drug directly to the patient for a maximum of three consecutive days, while other arrangements for treatment were being made. This previous rule required the patient to come in and be seen and treated by the doctor for three consecutive days.

The new rule now allows a physician to **dispense** a maximum of a three day supply. The physician now has a choice whether to see the patient and administer three days in a row, or now the physician may dispense up to a three day supply of the drug while other treatment arrangements are made.

**Note:** The revision of this rule does not authorize **prescribing** under these conditions.

EJ Jackson, Administrator  
Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs

### PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' vision is optimal health and safety for all Missourians, in all communities, for life.