

# NEW LAW FOR PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS (NARCOTICS)

The state of Tennessee is limiting how opioid medicines can be prescribed.

## Here is why . . .

- Every day, at least 3 Tennesseans die from an opioid-related overdose.
- Each year in Tennessee, more opioid prescriptions are written than there are people living in the state.
- People can become addicted to opioids sooner than we used to think.
- There are many risks and possible side effects to taking opioids. And yet, over time, they do not treat pain better than non-opioid medicines.

## What has the law changed?

Among other things, you will now have to sign a consent form to be treated with opioids.

Your provider will be limited in the supply of opioids they can prescribe.

If you are getting medicine for 3 or fewer days; being treated for cancer, sickle cell disease, chronic pain, severe burns, or trauma; being treated in hospice, certain licensed care facilities, or a drug treatment program using methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone; or being treated by a pain management specialist, you may be exempt from these limitations.

Talk with your provider about what this new law means for you.