RECENT NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATION RELATED TO OPIOID PRESCRIBING

NEW YORK STATE LAW:

- Limits the prescription of opioids from 30 days to seven days for acute pain upon initial consultation
  - Applies to schedule II, III and IV opioids
  -Defines “acute pain” as pain that the practitioner reasonably expects to last only a short period of time
  -Excludes chronic pain, pain being treated as part of cancer care, hospice or palliative care practices
  -Limits co-payments to the proportionate amount between the copayment for a 30-day supply and the amount of drugs the patient was prescribed, or the equivalent to the copay for the full 30-day supply (provided that no additional copays may be charged for any additional prescriptions for the remainder of the 30-day supply)

Effective Date: July 22, 2016

- Requires ongoing education on addiction and pain management for all prescribers authorized to prescribe opioids by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and for every prescribing resident under a facility registration
  - Requires that prescribers complete three hours of coursework on pain management, palliative care and addiction by July 1, 2017 and every three years thereafter
  - Coursework may be taken online
  - Course completion must be documented on a form disseminated by the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) Commissioner
  - Exceptions are allowed for those who can demonstrate to the NYS DOH’s satisfaction that there would be no need to complete the course; or that the prescriber has completed course work deemed as equivalent by the NYS DOH

Effective Date: July 22, 2016

For more information, including NYS DOH-sponsored free course work, visit health.ny.gov and search mandatory prescriber education.