



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
*Office of the Attorney General*

202 North Ninth Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
804-786-2071  
FAX 804-786-1991  
Virginia Relay Services  
800-828-1120

Mark R. Herring  
Attorney General

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** William L. Harp, MD  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Medicine

**FROM:** Erin L. Barrett  
Assistant Attorney General

**DATE:** August 7, 2017

**SUBJECT:** *Regulations Governing Opioid Prescribing for Pain and Prescribing of Buprenorphine for Addiction Treatment*  
18VAC85-21-10 *et seq.*

I have reviewed the proposed *Regulations Governing Opioid Prescribing for Pain and Prescribing of Buprenorphine for Addiction Treatment*, 18VAC85-21-10 *et seq.* The proposed regulations establish requirements for the management of acute pain, the management of chronic pain, and the treatment of opioid addiction with buprenorphine. The proposed regulations are identical to the re-adopted emergency regulations governing the same topics. The Board of Medicine has the statutory authority to promulgate these regulations under Virginia Code §§ 54.1-2400 and 54.1-2928.2. The proposed regulations are constitutional and do not conflict with existing federal or state laws or regulations.