



# MISSISSIPPI

## INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

**MIKE CHANEY**  
Commissioner of Insurance  
and State Fire Marshal

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Mississippi Insurance Department Issues**

#### **Bulletin on Opioid Prescriptions**

**Jackson-** The Mississippi Insurance Department has issued Bulletin 2017-4, which strongly encourages all issuers of health insurance products in Mississippi to implement the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain.

“In the past two decades, Mississippi has seen a marked increase in the use of opioid pain relievers which has consequently resulted in an escalation of opioid dependency, as well as a surge in heroin addiction,” said Commissioner of Insurance Mike Chaney.

“It is our hope that issuing this bulletin will help slow and control the supply of opioids being administered in the state.”

The bulletin seeks to have issuers partner with pain management experts, addiction experts and the issuers’ network providers and pharmacists. Issuers are also encouraged to promptly submit to the Mississippi Insurance Department any necessary form and rate filing changes associated with this implementation.

Insurers are asked to direct any questions regarding this bulletin to the Life and Health Actuarial Division of the Mississippi Insurance Department.