

UPDATES TO NON-OPIOID PAIN MANAGEMENT:

WHAT CAREGIVERS NEED TO KNOW

VOICES
FOR NON-OPIOID
CHOICES

What is the NOPAIN Act?

Effective January 1, 2025, the Non-Opioids Prevent Addiction in the Nation (NOPAIN) Act is a new federal law designed to increase patient access to non-opioid treatments used to manage postsurgical pain.

Medicare now provides separate coverage for medications and devices that are proven non-addictive in both hospital outpatient and surgery center settings. This ensures patients have greater access to safe, effective pain management options during and after surgery—without the burden of financial barriers.

Why This Matters

- Many people are first exposed to opioids to manage postsurgical pain. In fact, **90%** of surgical patients receive an opioid to manage postsurgical pain.
- For some, this will lead to misuse, abuse, dependence and addiction. Research shows that up to **10%** of opioid-naïve patients prescribed an opioid after surgery will develop long-term opioid use.
- Older adults are more sensitive to opioid side effects such as constipation, confusion, and drowsiness. Non-opioid options help manage pain effectively without these concerns.

Make no mistake, you have choices when it comes to managing your loved one's postsurgical pain.

What This Means for You



Improved personalized patient care through expanded access to safe, effective, non-opioid options for postsurgical pain.



You have a role to play in advocating for non-addictive approaches, if that's what makes the most sense for you or your loved one.

Covered Products

Available qualifying products under the NOPAIN Act include:

- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
- Cryotherapy devices
- Infusion pumps
- Numbing medications and nerve blocks

**Learn More About
the Non-Opioid
Options Available:**



What You Can Do for Your Loved One

1. **Take an active role in shaping their pain care:** Review the surgical plan and pain treatment approach before surgery. Remember that many non-opioids are administered during surgery to help prevent pain before it begins.
2. **Ask your clinician informed questions about surgical pain and postsurgical recovery:**
 - *What is the plan to manage my loved one's pain?*
 - *What should be expected from a pain management perspective?*
 - *What non-opioid options are available to manage the anticipated pain? If none, why not?*
 - *Is my loved one at risk of opioid-related side effects or addiction?*
3. **If relevant, talk openly about family history of substance use disorders.**

For more information, please visit www.nonopioidchoices.org

UPDATES TO NON-OPIOID PAIN MANAGEMENT: WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

VOICES
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What is the NOPAIN Act?

Effective January 1, 2025, the Non-Opioids Prevent Addiction in the Nation (NOPAIN) Act is a new federal law designed to increase patient access to non-opioid treatments used to manage postsurgical pain.

While the law applies only to Medicare, it has broader implications: hospitals and surgery centers are now more likely to carry and make available non-opioid treatments because Medicare will now reimburse them. This creates a pathway for increased access across all patients, including children and teens.

Why This Matters

- Many people are first exposed to opioids to manage postsurgical pain, including children and teens. In fact, **90%** of surgical patients receive an opioid to manage postsurgical pain.
- Students prescribed opioids before 12th grade have a **33%** higher risk of misusing opioids after high school.
- Research shows that up to **10%** of opioid-naïve patients prescribed an opioid after surgery will develop long-term opioid use. For high school athletes, lifetime opioid use rates are **28%-46%**.

Having non-opioid options readily available at hospitals means that your family has more choices for safe, effective pain management.

Covered Products

Available qualifying products under the NOPAIN Act include:

- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
- Cryotherapy devices
- Infusion pumps
- Numbing medications and nerve blocks

What This Means for You



Because Medicare now reimburses hospitals, they are more likely to stock non-opioids, making them available to all patients, not just those on Medicare.



You can advocate for pain management options that fit your child's or teen's needs and reduce risk of exposure to opioids.



Requesting these options encourages hospitals and payers to follow Medicare's example and expand access to non-opioid options.

**Learn More About
the Non-Opioid
Options Available:**



What You Can Do for Your Child

1. **Take an active role in shaping their pain care:** Review the surgical plan and pain treatment approach before surgery. Remember that many non-opioids are administered during surgery to help prevent pain before it begins.
2. **Ask your hospital about non-opioid pain management options and encourage payers to follow Medicare's lead in covering them. Ask the clinician informed questions about surgical pain and postsurgical recovery:**
 - *What is the plan to manage my child's pain?*
 - *What should be expected from a pain management perspective?*
 - *What non-opioid options are available to manage the anticipated pain? If none, why not?*
 - *Is my child at risk of opioid-related side effects or addiction?*
3. **If relevant, talk openly about family history of substance use disorders.**

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UPDATES TO NON-OPIOID PAIN MANAGEMENT:

WHAT INDIVIDUALS IN RECOVERY NEED TO KNOW

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What is the NOPAIN Act?

The Non-Opioids Prevent Addiction in the Nation (NOPAIN) Act is a new federal law designed to increase patient access to non-opioid treatments used to manage postsurgical pain. It took effect on January 1, 2025.

Medicare now provides separate coverage for medications and devices that are proven non-addictive in both hospital outpatient and surgery center settings. This ensures patients have greater access to safe, effective pain management options during and after surgery—without the burden of financial barriers.

Why This Matters

- People in recovery deserve access to safe, effective pain relief that supports their sobriety and overall health without risking relapse.
- Surgeries often require pain management, but opioids don't need to be a barrier to care. There are non-addictive alternatives safe for everyone!
- According to the CDC, **over 54,000** Americans died from an opioid-related overdose in 2024.

Make no mistake, you have choices when it comes to managing your postsurgical pain.

Covered Products

Available qualifying products under the NOPAIN Act include:

- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
- Cryotherapy devices
- Infusion pumps
- Numbing medications and nerve blocks

Under the NOPAIN Act



Medicare is now required to provide separate reimbursement for certain non-opioid pain management drugs and devices used after surgery.



This means people in recovery have greater access to non-addictive pain treatment options during and after surgery, without financial barriers.

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What To Do Before Your Surgery

1. Be open and honest about your sobriety journey with your clinician.
2. Discuss your concerns about undergoing a procedure that may involve exposure to opioids.
3. Before the procedure, ask your doctor about pain treatment options that won't risk your recovery, like non-opioids.
4. Talk to your care team, sponsor, and/or support group beforehand about treatment options and their impact on your recovery.

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UPDATES TO NON-OPIOID PAIN MANAGEMENT:

WHAT CLINICIANS NEED TO KNOW

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What is the NOPAIN Act?

Starting January 1, 2025, the Non-Opioids Prevent Addiction in the Nation (NOPAIN) Act mandates that Medicare provide additional reimbursement for qualifying non-opioid options across hospital outpatient departments and ambulatory surgical centers.

Under the NOPAIN Act

The NOPAIN Act increases patient and provider access to non-opioid pain management options to manage postsurgical pain by removing barriers associated with reimbursement. With Congress passing the NOPAIN Act, you can now provide certain qualifying non-opioids to your Medicare patients to help manage their pain without relying solely on prescription opioids.

Covered Products

To qualify for separate payment, the product must be FDA-approved to reduce postoperative pain or produce postsurgical or regional analgesia, and not act on the body's opioid receptors.

Available qualifying products for 2026 under the NOPAIN Act:

Drugs	Devices
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DEXTENZA®• EXPAREL®• Ketorolac• Tromethamine Injection• OMIDRIA®• ZYNRELEF®	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ambIT® Electronic Infusion Pump• Cryo Nerve Block Therapy• IceMan• iovera®• ON-Q® Pump• SPRINT® PNS System• Sapphire Infusion Pump• Ultrasound-visible nerve block needles• Perforated continuous infusion catheter• Continuous anesthesia conduction catheter• CADD-Solis infusion pump• Game Ready System

Pharmacists: Key Partners

Pharmacists play a vital role in ensuring awareness and access to non-opioid options. By educating patients, reinforcing prescriber recommendations, and helping navigate coverage questions, pharmacists support effective and tailored pain management choices.

Questions to Ask Your Facility or Practice

1. Are we utilizing non-opioid products now eligible for separate Medicare reimbursement? *If not, why?*
2. Are our billing/coding teams aware of and aligned with CMS updates?
3. Do our formularies, EMR order sets, and procurement processes include these non-opioids?
4. Are there standing orders or protocols in place to encourage non-opioid use?

What This Means for You



Your institution should have increased adoption of qualifying products, and you should have unprecedented access to them.



Improved access to non-opioids can help tailor pain management to reduce opioid exposure and support safe recovery.



Reimbursement is now clear and consistent. Confidently prescribe and code for qualifying non-opioids, knowing they're separately reimbursed—ensuring patient care and fair payment.



You can play a key role in reducing exposure to opioids, especially for opioid-naïve or high-risk patients, by offering alternatives from the start.

UPDATES TO NON-OPIOID PAIN MANAGEMENT:

WHAT MEDICAL STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

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What is the NOPAIN Act?

Effective January 1, 2025, the Non-Opioids Prevent Addiction in the Nation (NOPAIN) Act requires Medicare to provide separate reimbursement for qualifying non-opioid pain management drugs and devices across hospital outpatient departments and ambulatory surgical centers.

With the NOPAIN Act, clinicians can now utilize branded non-opioid options to manage postsurgical pain for Medicare patients, removing reimbursement barriers and helping to minimize financial obstacles to care.

Why This Matters

The NOPAIN Act gives you an opportunity to be part of a national movement redefining how pain is treated—starting now.

- According to the CDC, **148** Americans died every day due to an opioid-related drug overdose in 2024 – that's **68%** of all drug overdose deaths.
- An estimated **90%** of surgical patients receive an opioid to manage postsurgical pain.

As future prescribers, medical students play a key role in shaping a pain management culture that prioritizes safe, effective, and evidence-based alternatives to opioids.

Covered Products

To qualify for separate payment, the product must be FDA-approved to reduce postoperative pain or produce postsurgical or regional analgesia, and not act on the body's opioid receptors.

Available qualifying products for 2026 under the NOPAIN Act:

Drugs	Devices
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DEXTENZA®• EXPAREL®• Ketorolac Tromethamine Injection• OMIDRIA®• ZYNRELEF®	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ambIT® Electronic Infusion Pump• Cryo Nerve Block Therapy• IceMan• iovera®• ON-Q* Pump• SPRINT® PNS System• Sapphire Infusion Pump• Ultrasound-visible nerve block needles• Perforated continuous infusion catheter• Continuous anesthesia conduction catheter• CADD-Solis infusion pump• Game Ready System

What This Means for You



Improved ability to personalize care through expanded access to safe, effective, non-opioid options for postsurgical pain.



An opportunity to position yourself as a clinician who helps lead solutions to the opioid crisis through a demonstrated commitment to innovation and patient safety.

What You Can Do as a Student

1. **Ask informed questions during clinical rotations:** *Are non-opioid options available for postsurgical pain? What barriers—such as access, awareness, or training—might limit their use?*
2. **Understand the formulary review process:** Learn how to advocate for adding qualifying non-opioids to your institution's formulary.
3. **Connect policy to practice:** Recognize how healthcare policies shape the way care is delivered.
4. **Lead early. Advocate now.** Whether in the classroom or clinic, your voice matters. Engaging in non-opioid advocacy today sets the tone for a safer, more effective pain management culture tomorrow.

For more information, please visit www.nonopioidchoices.org

UPDATES TO NON-OPIOID PAIN MANAGEMENT: WHAT PATIENTS NEED TO KNOW

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What is the NOPAIN Act?

Beginning January 1, 2025, a new federal law—the Non-Opioids Prevent Addiction in the Nation (NOPAIN) Act—goes into effect. This law is designed to make it easier for patients like you to ask for and receive non-addictive pain treatments during and after surgery.

Medicare now provides separate coverage for medications and devices that are proven non-addictive in both hospital outpatient and surgery center settings. This ensures patients have greater access to safe, effective pain management options during and after surgery—without the burden of financial barriers.

Why This Matters

- For many, surgery is the first time they're exposed to opioids. In fact, **90%** of surgical patients receive an opioid to manage postsurgical pain.
- For some, this may lead to misuse, abuse, dependence, or addiction. Research shows that approximately **1 in 10** opioid-naïve patients prescribed an opioid after surgery will develop long-term opioid use.

The NOPAIN Act gives you more control over your recovery, ensuring you have choices when it comes to managing pain.

Covered Products

Available qualifying products under the NOPAIN Act include:

- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
- Cryotherapy devices
- Infusion pumps
- Numbing medications and nerve blocks

What This Means for You



As a Medicare patient, you now have expanded access to non-opioid pain treatments.



You have a voice in your care—you can and should ask about alternatives that fit your needs.



Advocating for yourself means ensuring your postsurgical care plan reflects your preferences and risks.

**Learn More About
the Non-Opioid
Options Available:**



What You Can Do as a Patient

- 1. Take an active role in shaping your pain care.** Pain relief starts before your procedure, not just after. Many non-opioid options—such as nerve blocks—are administered during surgery to help prevent pain before it begins. Before your surgery, ask your doctor:
 - *What is the plan to manage my pain after surgery? What should I expect from a pain perspective?*
 - *What non-opioid options are available for me? If they aren't recommended, why not?*
 - *Am I at risk of opioid-related side effects or addiction?*
- 2. Review your surgical plan and pain treatment approach in advance.**
- 3. Talk openly with your care team about any family history of substance use or personal concerns.**
- 4. Speak up: your preferences matter.** Non-opioid options are more accessible and you have the right to ask for them. **Seek second opinions & push back** if your care plan doesn't reflect what you want.

For more information, please visit www.nonopioidchoices.org