

# Most ophthalmologists write few opioid prescriptions

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"In general, ophthalmologists show discretion in their opioid prescribing patterns. The present opioid abuse epidemic should prompt physicians to consider revisiting their prescribing protocols given the [high risk](#) for dependency," conclude the authors.

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(HealthDay)—Most ophthalmologists write no more than 10 opioid prescriptions annually, with a mean supply per prescription of five days, according to a study published online Oct. 5 in *JAMA Ophthalmology*.

Shriji Patel, M.D., and Paul Sternberg Jr., M.D., both from Vanderbilt Eye Institute in Nashville, Tennessee, analyzed physician and beneficiary measures using Medicare Part D Prescriber Data (2013 to 2015) to determine prescribing patterns for [opioid drugs](#) for participating [ophthalmologists](#).

The researchers found that, consistently, 88 to 89 percent of ophthalmologists wrote 10 opioid prescriptions or fewer annually. Only about 1 percent of ophthalmologists wrote more than 100 opioid prescriptions annually. On average, ophthalmologists wrote seven opioid prescriptions per year with a mean supply of five days. The six states with the highest volume of annual opioid prescriptions per ophthalmologist were in the South.

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