Eight Regulatory Barriers to Opioid Access for Cancer Pain Relief

1. Eligibility Restriction
   Patients require a permission or special registration to receive opioid prescriptions

2. Prescriber Restriction
   Physicians need to receive a special authority/license to prescribe opioids

3. Emergency Prescriptions
   Pharmacists are prohibited from accepting emergencies prescription by fax, phone or non medical prescribing

4. Limited Prescription Duration
   Maximum number of days opioids are supplied on a single prescription

5. Pharmacist Authority
   Pharmacists are prohibited from correcting prescriptions

6. Burden of Prescriptions
   Increasing bureaucracy in prescriptions

7. Restricted Dispensing Sites
   Limitations for pharmacists in dispensing opioids

8. Negative Languages in Laws
   Use of stigmatizing terminology for opioid analgesics in regulations

Countries use a range of regulatory restrictions to limit accessibility of opioids.

Infographic provided by the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO). www.esmo.org