

January 20, 2016

Ohio's New Opioid Prescribing Guidelines for Acute Pain Expand Fight Against Prescription Drug Abuse

As part of Ohio's continuing effort to curb the misuse and abuse of prescription pain medications and unintentional overdoses, the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team has issued new opioid prescribing guidelines for the treatment of patients with acute pain. Short-term acute pain can result from injuries, or surgical and dental procedures, and is generally resolved within 12 weeks.

The new acute guidelines expand upon Ohio's existing prescribing guidelines for emergency departments and acute care facilities issued in 2012, and for treatment of chronic pain lasting longer than 12 weeks issued in 2013. None of the guidelines are intended to replace clinical judgment, and all three were developed by the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team in conjunction with clinical professionals associations, healthcare providers, state licensing boards and state agencies.

"Too many families are being torn apart by drugs and that is why we have been so proactive in exploring new ways to prevent Ohioans from becoming addicted to prescription opioids," said Gov. John R. Kasich. "Building upon prescribing guidelines we established for emergency rooms and chronic pain, the new protocols for treating short-term acute pain will strengthen our efforts to fight abuse and ultimately save lives."

Copies of all three opioid prescribing guidelines, and tools and resources for prescribers, are available at www.opioidprescribing.ohio.gov. The website also contains video messages to prescribers from Gov. John R. Kasich, and from a young patient who shares his story of life on opioids: from legitimate use during recovery from a sports injury, to abuse and addiction.

In 2014, more than 262 million opioid doses were dispensed in Ohio for the management of acute pain—35 percent of the state's 750 million total dispensed opioid doses. Prescription opioids remain a significant contributor to unintentional drug overdose deaths in Ohio, contributing to nearly one-half of all deaths in 2014.

The new guidelines urge prescribers to first consider non-opioid therapies and pain medications—when appropriate—for the outpatient management of acute pain. This approach can help to prevent the potential misuse and abuse of leftover opioids. When opioid medications are necessary to manage a patient's acute pain, the guidelines recommend that the clinician prescribe the minimum quantity necessary without automatic refills.

"No prescriber can predict which patients will become addicted to their opioid pain medication, so why take the chance if the patient's acute pain can be managed by less dangerous treatment options?" said Dr. Amol Soin, a pain management specialist, and Vice President of the State Medical Board of Ohio.

"Just because clinicians can prescribe a 30-day supply of opioid medication doesn't mean that they should," he said. "Prescribing only the amount necessary—based on each individual patient's needs—will help reduce the number of leftover, unused opioids and the potential for diversion and abuse."

Dr. Soin noted that patients can take an active role in keeping themselves and others safe. "When you talk with your doctor or healthcare provider about managing your acute pain, ask to try non-opioid pain medications and therapies first," he said. "If you do need opioid pain medication, make sure that you store it securely where no one else can get it, and safely dispose of any leftover pills."

Dr. Soin also noted that, like the emergency department and chronic pain prescribing guidelines, the new acute pain guidelines call for prescribers to check the State Board of Pharmacy's Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) before prescribing an opioid. A review of OARRS is required for most opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions of seven days or longer.

"Patients may already be using opioids or benzodiazepines from other prescribers to treat a range of conditions including anxiety and insomnia," he said. "Taking these drugs together increases a patient's risk of a drug overdose, respiratory depression and death."

Ohio is making it even easier for prescribers to check OARRS.

Last October, Gov. Kasich announced an investment of up to \$1.5 million a year to integrate OARRS directly into electronic medical records and pharmacy dispensing systems across Ohio, allowing instant access for prescribers and pharmacists. More than 110 hospitals, pharmacies and physician offices already have requested integration.

Ohio's opioid prescribing guidelines are having a positive impact in the fight against prescription drug abuse:

- The number of prescriber and pharmacist queries using OARRS increased from 778,000 in 2010 to 9.3 million in 2014.
- The number of individuals "doctor shopping" for controlled medications decreased from more than 3,100 in 2009 to approximately 960 in 2014.
- The number of opioid doses dispensed to Ohio patients decreased by almost 42 million from 2012 to 2014.
- The number of patients prescribed opioid doses higher than chronic pain guidelines recommend to ensure patient safety decreased by 11 percent from the last quarter of 2013 to the second quarter of 2015.
- Ohio patients receiving prescriptions for opioids and benzodiazepine sedatives at the same time dropped 8 percent from the last quarter of 2013 to the second quarter of 2015.

Wallet Cards Discontinued

Due to a change in Ohio law that went into effect on September 29, 2015, the Medical Board no longer issues wallet cards at the time of initial licensure or renewal. Online license status verification is available 24/7.

Use the license status feature on the Medical Board's website - www.med.ohio.gov – to verify information regarding physicians (MD, DO, DPM), acupuncturists, anesthesiologist assistants, cosmetic therapists, genetic counselors, oriental medicine practitioners, and radiologist assistants.

To verify information regarding massage therapists or physician assistants use the license lookup feature on the new E-License center at <https://elicense.ohio.gov/>.

2016 Medical Board Officers

The following members of the Board serve as officers during calendar year 2016: President, Michael Gonidakis; Vice-President, Amol Soin, MD; Secretary, Kim G. Rothermel, MD; and Supervising Member, Bruce Saferin, DPM.

WANTED - Medical Specialists

The Medical Board needs AOA or ABMS Board Certified physicians in the following specialties to review confidential complaints involving quality of care issues:

- All osteopathic specialties
- Pain Management
- Occupational Medicine or Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation who practice pain management
- Family Medicine who also practice pain management
- Internal Medicine who also practice pain management
- Neurologists who also practice pain management
- Anesthesiologists who also practice pain management

If interested in contracting with the Medical Board for this service, contact Alexandra Murray, Managing Attorney for Standards Review and Compliance, at Alexandra.Murray@med.ohio.gov.

License Renewal Password or Security Code Help

A unique password or security code is required to begin the online renewal process. If you have misplaced the renewal notice letter sent to you that contained your unique access information, you may send an email to the Board to obtain your password or security code.

If you are a physician (MD, DO, DPM), acupuncturist, anesthesiologist assistant, cosmetic therapist, genetic counselor, oriental medicine practitioner, or radiologist assistant, use this link med.renewal@med.ohio.gov to request your user ID and password. Please include your full name and license number in your correspondence.

If you are a massage therapist or physician assistant, click this link med-salesforce@med.ohio.gov to request a security code. Please include your full name and license number in your correspondence.

###

January 29, 2016

2016 Medical Board Officers

The following members of the Board serve as officers during calendar year 2016: President, Michael Gonidakis; Vice-President, Amol Soin, MD; Secretary, Kim G. Rothermel, MD; and Supervising Member, Bruce Saferin, DPM.

Wallet Cards Discontinued

Due to a change in Ohio law that went into effect on September 29, 2015, the Medical Board no longer issues wallet cards at the time of initial licensure or renewal. Online license status verification is available 24/7.

Use the license status feature on the Medical Board's website - www.med.ohio.gov – to verify information regarding physicians (MD, DO, DPM), acupuncturists, anesthesiologist assistants, cosmetic therapists, genetic counselors, oriental medicine practitioners, and radiologist assistants.

To verify information regarding massage therapists or physician assistants use the license lookup feature on the new E-License center at <https://elicense.ohio.gov/>.

WANTED - Medical Specialists

The Medical Board needs AOA or ABMS Board Certified physicians in the following specialties to review confidential complaints involving quality of care issues:

- All osteopathic specialties
- Pain Management
- Occupational Medicine or Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation who practice pain management
- Family Medicine who also practice pain management
- Internal Medicine who also practice pain management
- Neurologists who also practice pain management
- Anesthesiologists who also practice pain management

If interested in contracting with the Medical Board for this service, contact Alexandra Murray, Managing Attorney for Standards Review and Compliance, at Alexandra.Murray@med.ohio.gov.

License Renewal Password or Security Code Help

A unique password or security code is required to begin the online renewal process. If you have misplaced the renewal notice letter sent to you that contained your unique access information, you may send an email to the Board to obtain your password or security code. Please include your full name and license number in your correspondence.

If you are a physician (MD, DO, DPM), acupuncturist, anesthesiologist assistant, cosmetic therapist, genetic counselor, oriental medicine practitioner, or radiologist assistant, click this link med.renewal@med.ohio.gov to request your user ID and password.

If you are a massage therapist or physician assistant, click this link med-salesforce@med.ohio.gov to request a security code.

March 1, 2016

Weight Loss Rules Adopted by Medical Board

There are now two rules addressing prescribing controlled substances for weight loss. One rule addresses short term anorexiant and the other rule addresses FDA approved medications for chronic weight management.

Rule 4731-11-04 (effective 2-29-16): [Controlled substances: Utilization for short term anorexiant for weight reduction](#)

- This rule addresses the use of schedule III or IV controlled substances approved by the FDA for utilization in weight loss “for a few weeks.”
- The total course of treatment using that controlled substance shall not exceed 12 weeks. The rule also requires the physician to meet face-to-face with the patient every 30 days.

Rule 4731-11-04.1 (effective 12-31-15): [Controlled substances: Utilization for chronic weight management](#)

- This rule addresses the use of controlled substances approved by the FDA for chronic weight management. The medications must be used in compliance with the FDA approved labeling. There is no time limit on the course of treatment.
- After the initial visit and two follow-up visits, the rule authorizes the physician to write refills or the physician may turn care over to a physician assistant or nurse practitioner.

State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy Adopts New Rules on Drug Compounding by Prescribers

On May 1, 2016, the following Board of Pharmacy rules on prescriber drug compounding will go into effect.

- **4729-16-04 (NEW) - Drugs Compounded by a Prescriber:** Specifies requirements for prescribers who compound non-hazardous drugs.
- **4729-16-11 (NEW) - Hazardous Drugs Compounded by a Prescriber:** Specifies requirements for prescribers who compound hazardous drugs.

For a complete copy of these and other rules relating to drug compounding, please visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/compounding2016

REMINDER: All locations (no exception) are required to hold a license as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs in order to possess, have custody or control of, or distribute dangerous drugs that are compounded or used for the purpose of compounding. Pharmacies and wholesalers will not be able to ship compounded drug products or drugs used for the purpose of compounding to an entity that is not licensed by the Board. This applies to compounded drugs sent to prescribers acting as [pick-up stations](#).

More information on this requirement can be accessed here: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/compoundingtddd

May 5, 2016

Human Trafficking Awareness Videos Launched

Two new human trafficking educational videos for licensees are now available on the Medical Board's website. The [Labor Trafficking Awareness](#) and [Sex Trafficking Awareness](#) videos define human trafficking, identify red flag behaviors that may indicate either labor or sex trafficking, provide clinical steps to follow if trafficking is suspected, and include reporting requirements and contact information. We encourage you to check out the short videos.

Does Your Last Name Begin with either L or M? Your license expires July 1, 2016

July 1, 2016 is the license expiration date for physicians, massage therapists, and cosmetic therapists who have a last name that starts with either L or M. Renew your license on-line using the instructions that were sent to you by the Medical Board. If you have misplaced your instructions, read the information posted on the **Renewal and CME** tab on the Medical Board's [website](#).

Special notice only for CTs in the L-M renewal group: Due to a computer system conversion impacting selected licensee types, you will not be able to renew your license on-line between Sunday, June 19 and Sunday, June 26. The computer conversion will go into effect for CTs on Monday, June 27.

Board of Pharmacy Grants Extension for Licensing Requirements for Prescribers Compounding Dangerous Drugs

The Board of Pharmacy has noted that a number of prescribers were unaware of the need to obtain a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs (TDDD) license if they were compounding on-site or ordering compounded drugs to their offices (ORC 4729.541). This requirement impacts all prescriber practices that were previously exempted from licensure, including those who are engaged in a form of compounding commonly referred to as reconstitution (which can include vaccines).

So as to not disrupt patient care, the Board of Pharmacy has granted an extension until September 1, 2016, to all prescribers that are performing drug compounding (including reconstitution) or ordering compounded drugs to their offices from the requirement to obtain a TDDD license.

The Board of Pharmacy expects all prescriber offices that are required to obtain TDDD licensure to do so by September 1, 2016. This extension does not apply to prescriber offices or other sites that must be licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs for any other purpose.

Prescriber offices are also expected to adhere to all Pharmacy Board compounding regulations, including Rules [4729-16-04](#) (for non-hazardous compounding) and [4729-16-11](#) (for hazardous drug compounding).

BOTOX Alert: Botox must be reconstituted and unless the pre-mixed Botox is shipped from the pharmaceutical company direct to the patient, there will need to be a TDDD license for the location where it is administered. [Contact the Pharmacy Board](#) before offering Botox for cosmetic purposes in any location.

Prescription Drug Disposal Resources

Several law enforcement agencies and pharmacies in Ohio offer drug disposal boxes to collect and dispose of unwanted or expired medications from the general public. The following links will help you, and your patients, find the closest drug disposal box:

- [Law Enforcement Drug Disposal Box Locator](#)
- [Pharmacy Drug Disposal Box Locator](#)
- [Prescription Drug Disposal Box Listing](#)



March 31, 2016

HealthScene Ohio Announcement

To our licensees:

The State Medical Board of Ohio is pleased to announce the publication of the initial edition of *HealthScene Ohio*, a new magazine published by the Board. Just as we are dedicated to the protection and safety of patients across Ohio, the Board is also committed to shining a spotlight on our licensees and the public who have amazing stories to tell – whether they're medical professionals or patients.

You will notice that this magazine is much different from most of the communications that you receive from this Board. In each quarterly issue, you'll find articles featuring anything from patient success stories to updates on compelling health news. Each story is penned with one goal in mind: to communicate to you and the public what some of our state's medical providers are doing in our shared effort to advance the quality of health care – and life – for all Ohioans.

It is important to note that this publication is created at a \$0 cost to the Board, and no licensee funds were used to produce it. You will be receiving an emailed copy of this publication, and we will also be mailing paper copies out for placement in waiting areas.

We hope you, your staff members, patients and clients enjoy this publication. And if you have any ideas for future articles, please feel free to email: hbealer@cityscenecolumbus.com.

Respectfully,

A.J. Groeber
Executive Director
State Medical Board of Ohio

June 3, 2016

Medical Board Plans to Cut Initial Licensure Fee

The Medical Board is looking to create financial incentives to encourage new physicians to stay in Ohio. Ohio's initial physician licensing fee is already among the least expensive in the country. Recently, the Board approved a further reduction from \$335 to \$305, and is awaiting legislative approval to implement it.

Special Notice Only for CTs in the L-M Renewal Group

July 1 is the license expiration date for Cosmetic Therapists (CT) who have a last name beginning with either L or M. Complete your on-line renewal as soon as possible. Due to a computer system conversion impacting selected licensee types, you will not be able to renew your license on-line between Friday, June 17 and Sunday, June 26. The computer conversion will go into effect for CTs on Monday, June 27. Contact the renewal department at med.renewal@med.ohio.gov if you need assistance.

Public Rules Hearing Set for June 13, 2016

A public hearing will be conducted on June 13, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the Lobby Hearing Room, Rhodes State Office Tower, 30 E. Broad Street, 1st Floor, Columbus, Ohio. The hearing will address rules regarding various aspects of the Board's administrative hearing process and a rule regarding a Physician Assistant's authority to delegate medical tasks and the administration of drugs. Oral and written testimony may be presented by any person affected by the proposed rules. The notice of the public hearing and the proposed rules may be found at this [link](#).

Ohio Physician Loan Repayment Program Application Deadline is June 30, 2016

The Ohio Physician Loan Repayment Program (OPLRP) increases access to primary care for underserved communities and populations. In exchange for loan repayment assistance, physicians commit to practice for a minimum of two years at an eligible site in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or Health Resource Shortage Area, accept Medicare and Medicaid, and see patients regardless of ability to pay.

Physicians applying to OPLRP must either be in current practice or in the final year of residency or fellowship training at the time of application. The following primary care specialties are eligible: family practice, general internal medicine, internal medicine/pediatrics, OB/GYN, general pediatrics, adolescent medicine, geriatrics, and psychiatry (general, child and adolescent, geriatric).

The Ohio Physician Loan Repayment Program (OPLRP) is managed by the Ohio Department of Health Primary Care Office. To learn more and to obtain the OPLRP application, visit the website: http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/chss/pcrh_programs/recruitment/slrp.aspx or contact Shane Ford, Recruitment/Retention Coordinator at Shane.Ford@odh.ohio.gov

July 8, 2016

New Federal Buprenorphine Prescribing Rule

Access to medication-assisted treatment for people addicted to heroin and pain pills will expand under a new U.S. Department of Health and Human Services rule. This change will allow qualified physicians to treat up to 275 patients, up from 100, with buprenorphine, a medication that blocks opioids from affecting the brain. The rule is set to go into effect in early August 2016. Read the [full rule on the Federal Register](#).

Medical Marijuana Update

Governor John R. Kasich signed House Bill 523, a bill that "authorizes the use of marijuana for medical purposes and establishes the Medical Marijuana Control Program," into law on Wednesday, June 8, 2016. The legislation goes into effect on September 8, 2016. The Ohio Department of Commerce, State Medical Board, and Board of Pharmacy will regulate aspects of the legislation.

House Bill 523 authorizes the State Medical Board of Ohio to adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, for the following:

- The procedures when applying for a Certificate to Recommend;
- The conditions that must be met to be eligible for a certificate to recommend;
- The schedule and procedures for renewing a certificate to recommend;
- The reasons for which a certificate may be suspended or revoked;
- The standards under which a certificate suspension may be lifted;
- The minimal standards of care when recommending treatment with medical marijuana.

The Board has one year from the effective date of the bill to adopt the rules.

Medical Board Seeks Comments Regarding Proposed Rules

The Medical Board and the Common Sense Initiative Office are seeking comments on the Medical Board's proposed new language for Rule 4731-11-09, Prescribing to Persons Not Seen by the Physician, and Rule 4731-11-01, Definitions for the rules concerning the prescribing of controlled substances.

The proposed language for Rule 4731-11-09 reflects the enactment of Section 4731.74 of the Revised Code, which directs the Medical Board to adopt a rule that authorizes a physician to establish a physician-patient relationship by the use of appropriate technology that permits, in a manner that is consistent with the minimal standard of care for in-person care by a physician, a medical evaluation and the collection of relevant clinical history as needed to establish a diagnosis, identify any underlying conditions, and identify any contraindications to the treatment that is recommended or provided. Regarding prescription drugs that are controlled substances, the rule must establish standards that are consistent with federal law.

Rule 4731-11-01 adds definitions for the terms "active patient," "consult," and "cross coverage." The rules and the Business Impact Analysis can be found on the [Medical Board's website](#).

Comments should be sent no later than **July 25, 2016** to both of the following:

- Medical Board at: Sallie.Debolt@med.ohio.gov
- Common Sense Initiative at: csipubliccomments@governor.ohio.gov

Wallet Cards for Cleveland Area First Responders

As part of preparations for the convention slated to take place in Cleveland the week of July 18, any physician who will be in the region and anticipates being a first responder in the event of an emergency can request a wallet card. If you do not have an existing wallet card and would like to request one for use in emergency response, please email: med.renewal@med.ohio.gov. Put "Wallet Card Request (July Convention)" in the subject line and include your full name and license number in the email request. Physicians should be advised that all other wallet card requests will be addressed with a print option in the new eLicense system (anticipated March, 2017, release).

Veterans Services Seeking Physicians

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services, a fellow state agency, is seeking applicants for several employment service opportunities. The Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky is seeking a physician to serve as the full-time Assistant Medical Director. The Ohio Veterans Home in Georgetown has two part-time openings for physicians, both serving as Physician Administrators. Click [here](#) for more information regarding position responsibilities and salary ranges. Use "physicians" as the sort keyword to locate the vacancies.

State Medical Board of Ohio – 30 E. Broad St. 3rd Floor – Columbus, OH 43215
Website: www.med.ohio.gov Main office phone: 614-466-3934

Monthly electronic newsletter from the State Medical Board of Ohio
August 2016

Annual Report

The State Medical Board of Ohio published its annual report on August 1, in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code. Some of the most notable accomplishments include:

- Issuing MD/DO licenses 29% faster than we did in December 2014.
- Expedited licenses are now routinely issued in 25-30 days, a 38% reduction in days from January 1, 2015.

The [complete annual report](#) is available to the public online at med.ohio.gov.

New Rules

The State Medical Board of Ohio has adopted the following rules, which are effective July 31, 2016. (The rule number is a hyperlink to the rule.)

- [4730-1-08](#) Physician assistant delegation of medical tasks and administration of drugs.
[4731-8-05](#) Confidentiality statutes.

Medical Board Hearing Rules

- [4731-13-01](#) Representatives; appearances.
[4731-13-02](#) Filing request for hearing.
[4731-13-03](#) Authority and duties of hearing examiners.
[4731-13-08](#) Filing.
[4731-13-09](#) Service.
[4731-13-10](#) Computation and extension of time.
[4731-13-11](#) Notice of hearings.
[4731-13-12](#) Transcripts.
[4731-13-13](#) Subpoenas for purposes of hearing.
[4731-13-15](#) Reports and recommendations.
[4731-13-16](#) Reinstatement or restoration of certificate.
[4731-13-18](#) Exchange of documents and witness lists.
[4731-13-20](#) Depositions in lieu of live testimony.
[4731-13-20.1](#) Electronic testimony.
[4731-13-25](#) Evidence.
[4731-13-34](#) Ex parte communication.
[4731-13-36](#) Disciplinary actions.

Lead Testing Video Released

As part of Ohio's effort to reduce pediatric exposure to lead, the State Medical Board of Ohio and Ohio Department of Health are jointly issuing a new video outlining blood lead testing guidelines for children. Ohio law requires primary health care providers to administer blood lead tests to at-risk children. This training will provide information about risk factors, screening and medical management of lead poisoning. The module is not mandatory, but is strongly encouraged. [Click here](#) for a link to an online video that will guide you through the Blood Lead Testing Requirements. These guidelines will help keep Ohio's children lead-safe.

Reporting Gabapentin Products to OARRS

Effective December 1, 2016, the following entities are required to submit the specified dispensing, personal furnishing, or wholesale sale information on all products containing gabapentin to the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS):

- All pharmacies located outside this state and licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs that dispense gabapentin to outpatients residing in this state.
- All pharmacies located within this state and licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs that dispense gabapentin to all outpatients.
- All wholesalers licensed as a wholesale distributor of dangerous drugs that sell gabapentin at wholesale shall report those drug transactions.
- All pharmacies licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs that sell gabapentin at wholesale shall report those drug transactions.
- All prescribers, except veterinarians, located within this state that personally furnish gabapentin to outpatients, including samples.
- Pharmacists are required to report it to OARRS for studying. **Physicians and prescribers are not required to check OARRS prior to prescribing gabapentin.**

Wallet Cards

While the State Medical Board of Ohio is no longer printing wallet cards automatically for each license issued and renewed, those wishing to carry proof of licensure with them can print off a copy of their credentials from med.ohio.gov. Starting in spring 2017, applicants for licensure and renewal will have the option to print a wallet card from the online eLicense system.

Seeking Medical Specialists

The Medical Board is seeking AOA or ABMS Board Certified physicians in the following specialties to review confidential complaints involving quality of care issues:

- All osteopathic specialties
- Pain Management
- Occupational Medicine or Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation who practice pain management
- Family Medicine who also practice pain management
- Internal Medicine who also practice pain management
- Neurologists who also practice pain management
- Anesthesiologists who also practice pain management

If interested, please contact Alexandra Murray, Managing Attorney for Standards Review and Compliance with the Medical Board, at Alexandra.Murray@med.ohio.gov



State Medical Board of

Ohio

Med Bd eNews

Monthly electronic newsletter from the State Medical Board of Ohio
September 2016

New Board Member Appointment

Governor John R. Kasich recently appointed Dr. Ronan M. Factora, MD to the Medical Board. Dr. Factora is on staff at the Center for Geriatric Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Medicine Institute, as well as Program Director for the Geriatric Medicine Fellowship and Co-Director of the Aging Brain Clinic. He has been appointed for a term that began on August 12 and will end on March 18, 2019. He fills a vacant seat on the Board and resides in North Royalton.

Medical Marijuana Control Program Statement

Please [click here to read the Medical Board's statement on affirmative defense.](#)

Medical Marijuana Physician Survey

The State Medical Board of Ohio and its partnering state organizations, the Department of Commerce and Pharmacy Board, have been tasked with writing the rules and specifics to implement Ohio's Medical Marijuana Control Program. As we research the best ways to establish the operation of the program, we are seeking your input. If you have not done so already, please take a moment to complete this eight-question survey about recommending medical marijuana in Ohio. The survey will close on September 25. Answers will remain anonymous. [Click here for the survey: Medical Marijuana Control Program Physician Questions.](#)

New Rules

The State Medical Board of Ohio has adopted the following rules, which are effective September 30, 2016. (The rule number is a hyperlink to the rule.)

Medical Board Hearing Rules

[4731-13-06](#) Continuance of hearing.

[4731-13-23](#) Witnesses.

OARRS Review

Ohio law requires all prescribers of opioid analgesics or benzodiazepines to register and use Ohio's Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS). Guidelines for the Management of Acute Pain Outside of Emergency Departments were also established this past January. Now that the law and guidance are in place, the Board will begin to use OARRS data to identify those prescribers who have failed to register for OARRS or who demonstrate a pattern of failure to check patients in OARRS. If we have received OARRS data indicating you may not be in compliance with the law, the Board will be contacting you in the next two weeks.

Bureau of Workers' Compensation New Opioid-Prescribing Rule

October 1 is the implementation date for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation's (BWC) new opioid-prescribing rule. It applies to all BWC-certified prescribing physicians. This rule will help prevent opioid dependence for Ohio's injured workers through its three primary goals that:

- Encourage prescribers to incorporate best clinical practices when prescribing opioids for treating Ohio's injured workers;
- Establish provisions and criteria for treating opioid dependence that arises secondary to treatment with opioid medications covered by BWC;
- Provide and strengthen BWC's peer review processes for opioid prescribing that addresses serious noncompliance with best practices.

[Read more about BWC's rule here.](#)

Pennsylvania Prescription Monitoring Program Launched

If you are a prescriber who practices primarily in an Ohio county that adjoins another state, Ohio law requires you to request the adjoining state's prescription drug information, which can be easily accessed through OARRS.

Now that Pennsylvania's prescription monitoring program is operational, those practicing in Ashtabula, Trumbull, Mahoning and Columbiana counties must request a report from that program.

GCOAT Video Available

This summer the State Medical Board of Ohio teamed up with the Governor's Cabinet Opioid Action Team (GCOAT) to produce an educational module on the new Acute Prescribing Guidelines. Personalized links were sent out to all physician email addresses in the Board's database, but the video is now available through a general link for those who did not receive the original emails or wish to share the information with colleagues. The module is available [here](#).

MT Renewal Deadline Reminder

This is a reminder that Massage Therapists in the H-K renewal group have an October 1 license renewal deadline. If you have not renewed on or before October 1st you will be subject to a late fee and your license will become inactive. For more details on registering on eLicense and renewal, MTs should please click [here](#).



License Renewal Reminder

The renewal deadline is fast approaching for licensees whose last names begin with E, F and G. Those professionals must renew on or before January 1, 2017. You are encouraged to begin the renewal process immediately as there will be several holidays when the Medical Board office is closed leading up to that deadline.

- MDs, DOs and DPMs: [click here to begin the renewal process](#)
 - Internet Explorer and Safari are the preferred web browsers
- MTs and CTs: [click here to begin the renewal process](#)
 - Google Chrome is the preferred web browser

(Reminder: no wallet card will be mailed to you. You are able to print proof of licensure by going to the [Public License Lookup](#) page.)

Supervision Agreement Renewal Deadline
NEW DATE

Because of the migration of computer systems at the State Medical Board of Ohio, the upcoming renewal deadline for Physician Assistant Supervision Agreements will be pushed out until next winter. Rather than asking for paper applications before January and then asking for resubmission of the information electronically in eLicense, the Board is working to create an extension date. This is a change that must be made in Ohio statute and we are currently working with legislators to confirm a new date. The Board will keep licensees informed as the information and process is finalized. **If your supervision agreement is set to expire January 31, 2017, you do NOT need to renew it at this time.**

Cosmetic Therapy Licensure Exam Hands-on Practical Segment
DISCONTINUED

The Medical Board voted to eliminate Part C of the Cosmetic Therapy licensure examination which is the hands-on practical segment. Since cosmetic therapy students must successfully demonstrate hands-on practice in order to graduate, it was deemed by the Board that Part C of



the exam was no longer necessary. This change is effective immediately, so the December 2, 2016 exam will be the first one to NOT feature the Part C hands-on practical segment. The Medical Board will continue to administer Parts A and B of the Cosmetic Therapy licensure exam. The exam will be administered in the Board's offices in Columbus on dates determined by the Board.

OARRS Compliance Update

The State Medical Board of Ohio will continue to notify licensees who fail to check OARRS before prescribing an opioid or benzodiazepine as we receive monthly data reports from the Board of Pharmacy.

Within the first few weeks of this effort to improve prescribing practices in Ohio, there have already been outstanding results:

- 204 DEA numbers have been added to OARRS accounts
- A total of 1,814 accounts have been created
- 254 new APRN accounts have been created
- 574 new DO/MD/DDS accounts have been created
- 49 new PA accounts have been created
- 937 new Prescriber Delegate accounts have been created
- The number of OARRS requests have **increased by 12,768 requests per weekday** (from 83,544 per weekday to 96,312)

Month-to-month improvement has also been substantial: the initial August report showed 45 individuals who failed to check 200+ times, by October that number decrease to just 15 individuals.

The feedback from licensees has been valuable as it has helped identify gaps in training, education and functionality of OARRS. The Medical Board takes all these comments seriously and we will be incorporating the information into new OARRS education modules and OARRS software updates anticipated this spring.

We thank you for your continued effort to assist in the fight against opioid abuse. Collectively, we will save lives through effective OARRS use and compliance.



Naloxone Atomizer Recall

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHAS) was recently notified of a nationwide recall impacting nasal atomizers used to administer naloxone – a drug used to reverse opiate overdoses. The Teleflex Medical MAD300 Nasal Atomizer is the device recalled, not the medication itself. Faulty atomizers subject to the recall put forth a stream of naloxone rather than creating a mist as the naloxone is administered, potentially impacting the effectiveness of the lifesaving drug. This product is widely used across Ohio in naloxone kits made available through Project DAWN and through Ohio Pharmacy Services. Not all MAD300 nasal atomizers are subject to the recall and the medication should not be discarded.

The state has established a 24/7 toll-free hotline that individuals may call if they have questions about the recall: 1-844-364-4063. For complete information about the recall, visit:

StopOverdoses.ohio.gov

New Rules

At its meeting on November 9, 2016, the Medical Board adopted the following rules. All of the rules go into effect on November 30, 2016. [New rules can be found on the Medical Board's website.](#)

Massage Therapy:

- 4731-1-12 Application, examination for certificate to practice massage therapy
- 4731-1-16 Massage therapy curriculum requirements

Exposure-Prone Invasive Procedures:

- 4731-17-02 Universal precautions
- 4731-17-07 Violations

Delegation of Medical Tasks:

- 4731-23-01 Definitions
- 4731-23-02 Delegation of medical tasks

Radiologist Assistants:

- 4774-1-02 Application for a certificate to practice
- 4774-1-03 Renewal of a certificate to practice
- 4774-2-02 Criminal records checks



License Renewal Reminder

Licensees whose last names begin with E, F and G must renew on or before January 1, 2017.

- MDs, DOs and DPMs: [click here to begin the renewal process](#)
Internet Explorer and Safari are the preferred web browsers
- MTs and CTs: [click here to begin the renewal process](#)
Google Chrome is the preferred web browser

(Reminder: no wallet card will be mailed to you. You are able to print proof of licensure by going to the [Public License Lookup](#) page.)

Medical Board Office - Holiday Closure Schedule

The Medical Board's offices will be closed the following dates for the holidays:

- Monday, December 26 - office reopens at 8 a.m. on December 27
- Monday, January 2 - office reopens at 8 a.m. on January 3

PA Supervision Agreement Renewal Deadline Update

Because of the migration of computer systems at the State Medical Board of Ohio, the upcoming renewal deadline for Physician Assistant Supervision Agreements will be pushed out until next winter. Rather than asking for paper applications before January and then asking for resubmission of the information electronically in eLicense, the Board is working to create an extension date for this renewal cycle. This is a change that must be made in Ohio statute and we are currently working with legislators to confirm a new date. The Board will keep licensees informed as the information and process is finalized.

If your PA supervision agreement is set to expire January 31, 2017, you do NOT need to renew it at this time.



Reporting Gabapentin Products to OARRS

As of December 1, 2016, the following entities are required to submit the specified dispensing, personal furnishing or wholesale sale information on all products containing gabapentin to the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS):

- All pharmacies located outside this state and licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs that dispense gabapentin to outpatients residing in this state.
- All pharmacies located within this state and licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs that dispense gabapentin to all outpatients.
- All wholesalers licensed as a wholesale distributor of dangerous drugs that sell gabapentin at wholesale shall report those drug transactions.
- All pharmacies licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs that sell gabapentin at wholesale shall report those drug transactions.
- All prescribers, except veterinarians, located within this state that personally furnish gabapentin to outpatients, including samples.
- Pharmacists are required to report it to OARRS for studying.

Physicians and prescribers are not required to check OARRS prior to prescribing gabapentin.

HealthScene Ohio – Fall Issue

HealthScene Ohio, the Medical Board's quarterly magazine, is now available. The [Fall 2016 issue](#) features:

Breaking Through – Army veteran finds recovery and healing with PTSD treatment

Deep Roots, Deep Tissue – Massage therapy has a rich history and a bright future in Ohio

Lifelong Healing – After seven years of abuse, Columbus woman finds peace in recovery

Battling Human Trafficking – Massage parlors are symptomatic of growing statewide problem



Medical Marijuana Control Program Draft Rules

The State Medical Board of Ohio is tasked with developing rules that will regulate the issuance of certificates to physicians wishing to be able to recommend medical marijuana for their patients. The Medical Board is also responsible for establishing the procedure for adding conditions or diseases which may qualify patients for the state's Medical Marijuana Control Program.

The Physician Certificate to Recommend Medical Marijuana and Petition for Added Qualifying Condition rules will follow the standard rule development process. After receiving input from the Ohio Medical Marijuana Advisory Committee and approval from the Medical Board to file, the rules will be submitted to the Common Sense Initiative, then the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review.

The public has the opportunity to comment at several points throughout the rule development process. The first opportunity is December 15, 2016 through 5 p.m. on January 13, 2017. Visit medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov/rules to review the draft rules and for instructions on how to provide written comments.

New OARRS Report Tool

We are pleased to share with you a new feature in OARRS which will allow you to see which prescriptions were not checked. Now, when you run a "prescriber practice insight report" there will be a column indicating any prescriptions which were not checked. Prescribers must have an OARRS account with the correct DEA number attached in order to retrieve this report.

DEA Renewal Information

Starting January 2017, DEA will no longer send its second renewal notification by mail. Instead, an electronic reminder to renew will be sent to the email address associated with the DEA registration.

At this time, DEA will otherwise retain its current policy and procedures with respect to renewal and reinstatement of registration. This policy is as follows:

- If a renewal application is submitted in a timely manner prior to expiration, the registrant may continue operations, authorized by the registration, beyond the expiration date until final action is taken on the application.
- DEA allows the reinstatement of an expired registration for one calendar month after the expiration date. If the registration is not renewed within that calendar month, an application for a new DEA registration will be required.



- Regardless of whether a registration is reinstated within the calendar month after expiration, federal law prohibits the handling of controlled substances or List 1 chemicals for any period of time under an expired registration.

For more information, refer to the DEA website: <https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drugreg/>

***Physician Assistant Prescribing of Buprenorphine Products
for Office-Based Treatment of Opioid Addiction***

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently announced that physician assistants (PAs) can train and apply to become DATA-waiver practitioners.

PAs may take the eight-hour DATA-waiver course for treatment of opioid use disorder, designed by national experts, that physicians currently take. The course is offered for free by SAMHSA through the [Providers' Clinical Support System for Medication Assisted Treatment \(PCSS-MAT\)](#) .

For the additional 16 hours, SAMHSA will also offer the training for free through the PCSS-MAT once it has been developed. PAs who have completed the required training and seek to become DATA-waiver for up to 30 patients will be able to apply to do so beginning in early 2017. For more information on the upcoming launch of the application and SAMHSA-sponsored training opportunities, PAs may [sign up](#) for the Buprenorphine Waiver Management email list.

Beginning in January 2017, Buprenorphine products will be listed on the Ohio Physician Assistant Formulary as “may prescribe” for office-based treatment of opioid addiction.

Medical Board Rules Effective December 31, 2016

At its December meeting, the Medical Board adopted the following rules which go into effect on December 31, 2016.

Exposure-Prone Invasive Procedure Precautions:

- 4731-17-01 Definitions (related to invasive procedures)
- 4731-17-04 Disinfection and sterilization

Radiologist Assistants:

- 4774-1-01 Definitions (related to radiologist assistants)



Board Action Reports Available Online

The Medical Board's [Formal Action Report](#) is available on the Medical Board's website under the Publications tab (med.ohio.gov). The report includes summary descriptions of the disciplinary actions initiated and the sanctions imposed by the Medical Board at its monthly meeting. The reports also contain updated changes in probationary monitoring requirements, reinstatement of licenses following suspension, and status reports of disciplinary cases on appeal through the courts.

Board Elects 2017 Officers

The Medical Board elected the following members to serve as officers during calendar year 2017: President, Amol Soin, MD; Vice-President, Robert Giacalone; Secretary, Kim G. Rothermel, MD; and Supervising Member, Bruce Saferin, DPM.

Task Force Promotes Prescribing Program



Anahi Ortiz, MD, Chair of the Franklin County Opiate Crisis Task Force and Franklin County Coroner, reports that the Treatment Subcommittee of the Franklin County Opiate Crisis Task Force is committed to looking at educational opportunities for physicians on opiate prescribing. One excellent program the Task Force vetted is PCSS-O, Providers Clinical Support System for Opioid Therapies. This group has multiple free and low cost webinars on various aspects of substance use disorder for physicians. Additionally, the organization offers a free colleague support program.

“PCSS-O provides ongoing peer-to-peer colleague support aimed at improving providers’ confidence in treating opioid use disorder and pain management. The program is designed to assist providers in using evidence-based practices when prescribing opioids for chronic pain in their practices. The support program is available, at no cost to providers. Experts part of the PCSS-O colleague support program are a national network of trained providers with expertise in opioid addiction and pain management and skilled in clinical education. They provide support by telephone, email, or in-person if logistically possible.”

Please visit <http://pcss-o.org/> to learn more about their educational opportunities and colleague support program.