

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: April 10, 2013  
 ATTENTION: Medical Board of California Members  
 SUBJECT: Joint Forum to Promote Appropriate Prescribing and Dispensing  
 STAFF CONTACT: Letitia Robinson, Research Program Specialist

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Medical Board of California (Board) should review the various ideas presented at the Joint Forum to Promote Appropriate Prescribing and Dispensing.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:

Prescription drug abuse and the resulting deaths are something the Board recognized as an issue that must be given the utmost priority. The Board wanted to provide education to its licensees and the public in an effort to prevent prescription drug abuse. To that end, the Board, in collaboration with the Pharmacy Board, held a “Joint Forum to Promote Appropriate Prescribing and Dispensing” for all interested parties on February 21-22, 2013.

The Forum focused on 1) the problem, including inappropriate prescribing, inappropriate security of drugs, etc; 2) the responsible parties, including prescribers, dispensers, patients, and regulators/law enforcement; and 3) the solutions, including education, enforcement, and necessary tools (CURES).

Both the Pharmacy and Medical Boards provided staff to ensure the Forum activities were sufficiently planned before, during and after the event. The Boards provided Continuing Medical Education (CME) to physicians and pharmacists who could earn up to four credit hours on the first day of the Forum and up to six credit hours on the second day. Certificates were mailed to all participants.

A link has been placed on the Board’s Web site under “Highlights”, “Licensees”, and “Consumers”. The link provides all the speakers presentations as well as video clips of each speaker. Getting this information placed on the Board’s Web site is a first step in endeavoring to educate physicians and the public on efforts to prevent prescription drug abuse.

Below is a breakdown on the number of Forum attendees by type:

	<u>Day 1</u>	<u>Day 2</u>
• Osteopathic Physician	3	2
• Pharmacist	115	112
• Physician	206	216
• Physician Assistant	1	2
• Registered Nurse	6	4
• Other Interested Parties	50	30
<i>Total Attendees</i>	<i>381</i>	<i>366</i>

The Forum was well received by most attendees. The Program Evaluation forms were completed by approximately 83% of the attendees on the first day and 88% of attendees on the second day. The Program Evaluation data indicates that about 87% of responders agreed or strongly agreed that

Speaker presentations were effective and enhanced participants' knowledge base. The following are additional responses from the evaluations (full statistics are attached):

- I gained knowledge from this activity: *95% strongly agreed or agreed*
- I will apply what I learned in my practice: *88% strongly agreed or agreed; 11% were neutral; 1% disagreed*
- What I learned will change my practice: *71% strongly agreed or agreed; 26% were neutral; 3% strongly disagreed or disagreed*

In addition to providing feedback via the Program Evaluations, when solicited, many attendees voiced their comments and suggestions during the final segment of the Forum: "Expectations vs. Reality: What is the future? Developing operational and legal solutions". The following recommendations were compiled from attendees, speakers, and staff feedback with regard to additional needs.

### **Educational Recommendations**

#### ***Prescribers***

- Provide Tip Sheets on prescribing issues
- Develop/include Board Newsletter articles on prescribing issues
- Educate prescribers to not use a "default" prescription amount
- Promote subscription to CURES
- Provide samples of patient pain management contracts (links on Web site)
- Identify actions for prescribers to take if a prescription pad has been stolen
- Educate prescribers on communicating with dispensers

#### ***Dispensers***

- Provide Tip Sheets on dispensing issues
- Develop/include Board Newsletter articles on dispensing issues
- Educate dispensers on how to work more closely with prescribers
- Promote subscription to CURES
- Identify actions for dispensers to take if presented with a fake prescription

#### ***Other Interested Parties***

- Provide consumer Tip Sheets
- Partner with advocacy groups to educate the public
- Link to other Web sites with tips and information, such as, take back programs

### **Other Recommendations**

- Develop an enforcement task force to develop and address best practices related to prescribing controlled substances to relieve pain



## California Medical and Pharmacy Boards' Joint Forum to Promote Appropriate Prescribing & Dispensing



### Program Evaluation Data – Day 1 – Thursday, February 21, 2013

**Please rate your level of agreement for the program meeting the following objectives:**

Objective	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
To educate participants in the problems created by overprescribing narcotics, addiction, and diversion of prescription drugs.	6	1	5	114	196
To inform participants of the nature of drug diversion – how legitimate patients' medications are diverted to illegitimate use.	5	2	10	127	180
To provide tools to physicians and pharmacists on how to spot problematic patients and prescriptions.	7	4	37	136	126
To inform participants of resources available to physicians who may have patients who are addicts.	12	15	56	129	107
To inform participants of the tools available from state and federal regulatory agencies	7	9	40	145	113

**Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This activity was commercially biased.	219	63	13	8	16
I gained knowledge from this activity.	2	1	13	140	169
I will apply what I learned in my practice.	1	2	38	146	135
What I learned will change my practice.	3	6	102	124	74

**Please indicate whether the speaker(s) was/were effective and enhanced your knowledge base.**

Speakers	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Michael P. Botticelli	2	3	35	153	124
Joseph Rannazzisi	7	6	15	69	221
Laura Meyers and Ruth Morentz	5	5	40	131	92



## California Medical and Pharmacy Boards' Joint Forum to Promote Appropriate Prescribing & Dispensing



### Program Evaluation Data – Day 2 – Friday, February 22, 2013

**Please rate your level of agreement for the program meeting the following objectives:**

Objective	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
To provide tools to physicians and pharmacists on how to spot problematic patients and prescriptions.	3	4	13	156	156
To inform participants of resources available to physicians who may have patients who are addicts.	9	20	38	149	114
To educate participants in the use of the California CURES program.	3	14	0	135	180
To educate participants of the penalties related to improper prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances.	3	10	31	158	120
To inform participants of the tools available from state and federal regulatory agencies.	4	10	51	148	109
To inform and encourage cooperation and communication between physicians and pharmacists.	4	1	11	131	185
To inform participants in how they can become involved in the public policy discussions.	5	21	66	127	82

**Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This activity was commercially biased.	242	62	12	7	11
I gained knowledge from this activity.	2	2	12	148	169
I will apply what I learned in my practice.	2	2	34	153	139
What I learned will change my practice.	4	6	62	155	100

Please indicate whether the speaker(s) was/were effective and enhanced your knowledge base.

<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
Cesar A. Aristeiguieta, M.D.	5	5	20	114	177
Judi Nurse, Pharm.D.	5	2	35	145	134
Darlene Fujimoto, Pharm.D.	5	3	21	154	137
David Greenberg, M.D.	9	1	24	123	167
Michel Sucher, M.D.	3	0	25	54	32
Kevin Barnard	7	5	39	146	107
Panel of Medical and Pharmacy Experts	4	3	40	143	135
Darlene Fujimoto, Pharm.D. / Gregory Polston, M.D.	6	3	32	144	128
Mike Small	5	1	34	133	136
Panel of Experts from Federal, State, and Local Law Enforcement/Prosecutors	5	3	35	133	132
Panel of Regulators and Policy Makers	3	5	25	112	99