

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: August 6, 2021
ATTENTION: Members, Medical Board of California
SUBJECT: Update on the Revision to the Guidelines on
Prescribing Controlled Substances
STAFF CONTACT: Susan Cady, AGPA (Executive Staff)

REQUESTED ACTION:

This report is intended to provide Members with an update on the revision to the guidelines on prescribing controlled substances.

TASK FORCE:

On May 3, 2021, the Executive staff met with the Task Force Committee members to discuss strategy and timeline to complete the revision. On July 1, 2021, Executive staff met to develop a work plan and strategy for amending the guidelines. A draft timeline was established, and goals were set to obtain input from a wide variety of stakeholders and implement the new guidelines. Susan Cady, a retired Enforcement Manager, was interviewed and appointed to oversee and coordinate the project.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK:

Staff researched new laws or regulatory changes which had occurred since 2014 and began identifying sections in the guidelines which required amendment to conform to the new statutory requirements.

In addition, staff conducted research to identify guidance letters and guidelines issued since 2014 by external agencies such as California Department of Public Health, Center for Disease Control, Food and Drug Administration to identify sections in the guidelines which may require amendment to conform to the updated directives.

RECRUITMENT OF SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS:

On July 26, 2021, a preliminary list of prospective subject matter experts was drafted for review by Executive staff. The list consisted primarily of individuals from the Board's expert reviewer pool. It was felt that list should be expanded to seek the expertise of outside experts as well. Staff is in the process of soliciting nominations for additional experts from both trusted sources and the California Society of Anesthesiologists. After vetting the prospective subject matter experts, the list will be presented to the Task Force Committee members for their review/consideration.