

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: November 3, 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 October 5, 2021, the Executive staff met with the Task Force Committee members to review the identified prospective subject matter experts. A discussion about the composition of the panel was held to ensure experts with a variety of practice specialties and practice settings were included. The Task Force felt that it was important to include primary care physicians practicing in pain management in the panel in addition to anesthesiologists and neurologists specializing in pain management. It was also suggested that staff prepare an analysis and comparison of Prescribing Guidelines issued by other State regulatory boards and federal entities to identify areas of discrepancies and consistency.

Staff reviewed and analyzed the prescribing guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control in 2016, the 2017 guidelines issued by the Federation of State Medical Boards and the 2019 Pain Management - Best Practices guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services. Staff also analyzed the 2018 guidelines issued by Arizona, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania, all of which were the most recent guidelines issued by any of the State Boards. The comparisons were integrated into an Excel spreadsheet and shared with the Task Force on November 1, 2021.

RECRUITMENT OF SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS:

Executive staff contacted the California Academy of Family Physicians for assistance in identifying individuals in the family medicine community with expertise and clinical experience in treating patients for pain through controlled substances. Additional prospective subject matter experts were identified and have been vetted by Executive staff. A meeting with the Task Force Committee is tentatively scheduled for November 15, 2021, to present the updated list of prospective experts and finalize the panel of subject matter experts to be used.