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Tony Evers, Governor
Dawn B. Crim, Secretary

December 29, 2021

Wisconsin State Senate
Chief Clerk
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Wisconsin State Assembly
Chief Clerk
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952

RE: Opioid Abuse Reports

Dear Chief Clerks:

The enclosed annual reports are being submitted on behalf of the Wisconsin Board of Nursing, Wisconsin Dentistry Examining Board, Wisconsin Medical Examining Board, Wisconsin Optometry Examining Board, and the Wisconsin Podiatry Affiliated Credentialing Board, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute s. 440.035(2m)(c)1.

Any questions regarding the reports should be directed to the respective board as follows:

Wisconsin Board of Nursing
c/o Brad Wojciechowski, Executive Director
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Wisconsin Dentistry Examining Board
c/o Adam Barr, Executive Director
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Wisconsin Medical Examining Board
Wisconsin Optometry Examining Board
Wisconsin Podiatry Affiliated Credentialing Board
c/o Tom Ryan, Executive Director
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Sincerely,

Dawn B. Crim, Ph.D.
Secretary

cc: Peter J. Kallio, RN, Chair, Wisconsin Board of Nursing
Matthew R. Bistan, DDS, Chair, Wisconsin Dentistry Examining Board
Sheldon A. Wasserman, MD, Chair, Wisconsin Medical Examining Board
Robert C. Schulz, OD, Chair, Wisconsin Optometry Examining Board
Robert M. Sage, DPM, Chair, Wisconsin Podiatry Affiliated Credentialing Board

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WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING



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REPORT ON OPIOID ABUSE

Proactive Efforts Taken by the Board of Nursing to Address Opioid Abuse

1. Controlled Substances Prescribing Guidelines – The Board of Nursing adopted Best Practices for Prescribing Controlled Substances Guidelines (Guidelines) on January 12, 2017. The Guidelines were developed using the following:

- Centers for Disease Control’s *Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain*.
- American Association of Nurse Anesthetists’ *Chronic Pain Management Guidelines*.
- American Nurses Association’s *Nursing’s Role in Addressing Nation’s Opioid Crisis*.
- Federal Drug Administration’s *Blueprint for Prescriber Education for Extended-Release and Long-Acting Opioid Analgesics*.
- Wisconsin Medical Examining Board’s *Opioid Prescribing Guideline*.
- Michigan’s *Guidelines for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain*.
- The Joint Commission’s *Statement on Pain Management*.
- National Transportation Safety Board recommendations for advising patients of the effect-controlled substances may have on their ability to safely operate a vehicle.

The Board of Nursing published the Guidelines in their newsletter and provided a copy of the Guidelines to every advanced practice nurse prescriber with an active license and an email on file with the Department of Safety and Professional Services. The Guidelines are available at <https://dsps.wi.gov/Documents/BoardCouncils/NUR/BONGuidelinesV1.pdf>.

- 2. Controlled Substances Continuing Education** – The Board of Nursing requires each advanced practice nurse prescriber to complete 2 hours of the required 16 hours of continuing education in the topic of responsible prescribing of controlled substances.
- 3. Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Information in Newsletter** – The Board of Nursing has highlighted information regarding the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program in their newsletter.
- 4. PDMP Prescribing Metrics for Prescribing Practice Complaints** – The Board of Nursing Screening Panel reviews the PDMP Prescribing Metrics Summary for any advanced practice nurse prescriber who has a complaint relating to the advanced practice nurse prescriber’s prescribing practices.
- 5. Membership on the Controlled Substances Board** – A member of the Board of Nursing is designated as a standing member of the Controlled Substances Board (CSB). The CSB is instrumental in the efforts to combat opioid abuse, primarily through its involvement with the PDMP and the scheduling of controlled substances under Wisconsin’s Controlled Substances Act.

Goals for Addressing the Issue of Opioid Abuse as it Relates to the Practice of Nursing

1. **Compliance with the PDMP Provider Review Requirement** – The Board of Nursing will continue its effort to increase compliance by raising awareness of the PDMP provider review requirement.
2. **Education** – The Board of Nursing will continue to explore opportunities to expand on its educational outreach in the areas of safe opioid prescribing and opioid abuse.
3. **PDMP Outreach** – The Board of Nursing will continue to work with PDMP staff to provide information concerning the PDMP to its licensees.
4. **PDMP Prescribing Outliers** – The Board of Nursing will continue to review referrals of advanced practice nurse prescribers from the Controlled Substances Board to identify those advanced practice nurse prescribers whose prescribing practices are outliers. In addition, the Board of Nursing Screening Panel will continue to review the PDMP Prescribing Metrics Summary for any advanced practice nurse prescriber who has a complaint relating to the advanced practice nurse prescriber's prescribing practices.

Actions Taken by the Board of Nursing to Achieve the Goals Identified in Previous Reports

1. **Compliance with Provider Review Requirement** – The Board of Nursing's goal was to continue its effort to increase compliance by raising awareness of the PDMP provider review requirement. As a means of facilitating this effort, the Board has requested PDMP staff to provide data on waivers for advanced practice nurse prescribers.
2. **Education** – The Board of Nursing's goal was to explore opportunities to expand on its educational outreach in the areas of safe opioid prescribing and opioid abuse. The Board has requested PDMP staff to provide opioid abuse statistics coming out of the COVID-19 public health emergency, as the Board anticipates this information will produce opportunities to expand on its educational outreach.
3. **PDMP Outreach** – The Board of Nursing's goal was to continue to work with PDMP staff to provide information concerning the PDMP to its licensees. As a member of the Controlled Substances Board, an appointed member of the Board of Nursing, regularly meets with and receives updates from PDMP staff. During the current reporting period, licensees received an update informing them that Gabapentin is now a monitored drug.
4. **PDMP Prescribing Outliers** – The Board of Nursing's goal was to continue to review referrals of advanced practice nurse prescribers from the Controlled Substances Board (CSB) to identify those advanced practice nurse prescribers whose prescribing practices are outliers.

The Controlled Substances Board referred a total of eight providers to the Board of Nursing for the current reviewing period. (Status: DLSC intake)

Another goal was for the Board of Nursing Screening Panel to continue to review the PDMP Prescribing Metrics Summary for any advanced practice nurse prescriber who has a complaint relating to the advanced practice nurse prescriber's prescribing practices. The Screening Panel continues this practice as part of its review of a complaint. The Board requested the PDMP prescribing monitoring reports of two providers in April and June respectively as part of this process.

Matthew Bistan
Chairperson

Shaheda Govani
Vice Chairperson

Herbert Kaske
Secretary

DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD



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2021 REPORT ON OPIOID ABUSE

Proactive Efforts Taken by the Dentistry Examining Board to Address Opioid Abuse

1. **Controlled Substances Prescribing Guidelines** – The Dentistry Examining Board adopted Best Practices for Prescribing Controlled Substances Guidelines (Guidelines) on April 12, 2017. The Dentistry Examining Board previously provided a copy of the Guidelines to every dentist with an active license and an email on file with the Department of Safety and Professional Services. The Guidelines are available at <https://dsps.wi.gov/Documents/BoardCouncils/DEN/DENGuidelinesApril2017.pdf>.

Goals for Addressing the Issue of Opioid Abuse as it Relates to the Practice of Dentistry

1. **Increase the Number of Dentists Registered with the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)** – In previous years of this report, all dentists were considered as eligible for registration in the PDMP program in setting a goal for the upcoming year. In reviewing PDMP data, a total of 21.58% or 1,058 of total licensed dentists in Wisconsin are exempt from registering from PDMP. This is an important consideration in goal setting related to increasing registration rates in the program. (More details on PDMP exempt can be found at https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/csb/4/08)

As of December 12, 2021, the total number of PDMP registered users (prescribers only) in dentistry is 2,910, out of 4,893 total licensees. The registration rate is 59.5%, which is a 2% increase from the same time in 2020 (57.4%). When removing the licensed dentists with PDMP-exemptions from the registration rate, a total of 75.9% of dentists (total registered users 2,910/total non-exempt licensees 3,835) participate in the PDMP, which equates to a 2% increase compared to the same time last year (73.8%). The goal therefore remains the same as in 2020; to increase the percentage of total of non-exempt dentists registered with the PDMP to 78.8%, given the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. **Education Regarding Opioid Prescribing** – In an effort to increase PDMP utilization and expand educational outreach on opioid prescribing, the Controlled Substances Board, in collaboration with the Dentistry Examining Board, has been working on a letter to prescribing dentists reminding them of their PDMP review responsibilities related to controlled substances prescribing. This letter is anticipated to be sent out in early 2022.
3. **Controlled Substances Continuing Education** – The Dentistry Examining Board will look into the possibility of a rule project to add a requirement for dentists to complete two (2) hours of continuing education in the topic of responsible prescribing of controlled substances for the treatment of acute dental pain each biennium in order to renew the license. A similar continuing education requirement was previously applied to the biennium's ending in 2019 and 2021.

Action Taken on 2020 Report Goals

1. **Increase the Number of Dentists Registered with the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)** – The Dentistry Examining Board’s 2020 goal was to increase percentage of total of non-exempt dentists registered with the PDMP to reach 78.8%. The adjusted rate of PDMP registration is currently 75.9% of all non-exempt dentists, which indicates progress on this goal.
2. **Education Regarding Opioid Prescribing** – The Dentistry Examining Board’s 2020 goal was to work to expand its educational outreach on the topics of prescribing controlled substances and utilizing the PDMP. The Controlled Substances Board in collaboration with the Dentistry Examining Board has been working on a letter to prescribing dentists reminding them of their PDMP review responsibilities related to controlled substances prescribing. This letter is anticipated to be sent out in early 2022.
3. **Controlled Substances Continuing Education** – The Dentistry Examining Board’s 2020 goal on controlled substances continuing education was to continue the requirement that each dentist complete two (2) hours of continuing education in the topic of responsible prescribing of controlled substances for the treatment of acute dental pain each biennium in order to renew the license. This continuing education requirement applies to the biennium ending in 2021 and previously in 2019.

Sheldon Wasserman
Chairperson

WISCONSIN MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

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Wisconsin Medical Examining Board (MEB) Wis. Stat. s 440.035 (2m) Report on Opioid Abuse – December 2021

Proactive Efforts Taken by the Board to Address the Issue of Opioid Abuse

Continuing Education Related to Prescribing Controlled Substances

The MEB's goal, as stated in its 2020 Act 262 Report, was to have rules in place at the beginning of the 2021-2023 biennium that would extend the requirement for the completion of continuing medical education related to prescribing controlled substances through the end of that biennium. The objective of that rule was to continue to promote best practices for prescribing controlled substances, and it has recently added stimulants to the CE requirement. The Board finalized a rule in March 2021 extending the 2-credit requirement. Over 100 opioid prescribing courses have been approved. In addition, the MEB conducts a random audit of continuing education in each biennium to verify proof of attendance.

Statewide Outreach

Through its partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), the Board will continue to develop its established collaborative relationship with the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP). The ePDMP is a tool to help combat the ongoing prescription drug abuse epidemic in Wisconsin. By providing information about controlled substance prescriptions that are dispensed in the state, it aids healthcare professionals in their prescribing and dispensing decisions. The ePDMP also fosters the ability of pharmacies, healthcare professionals, law enforcement agencies, and public health officials to work together to reduce the misuse, abuse, and diversion of prescribed controlled substance medications. More information is available on the ePDMP website: <https://pdmp.wi.gov/> In addition, the Wisconsin Controlled Substances Board (CSB) Referral Criteria Work Group (also administered by DSPS) uses ePDMP data to determine whether to refer prescribing concerns to the MEB. Its Annual and Quarterly ePDMP Reports are published on the CSB website.

National Outreach and Leadership

The MEB is a member of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB). Dr. Kenneth Simons, former member and Chair of the MEB, served as Chair of the Board of Directors for the FSMB in 2021. During his term, the FSMB undertook several initiatives related to opioid abuse, including the launch of the Opioid Regulatory Collaborative, a new partnership among state regulatory boards that license U.S. physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, nurses and dentists, aimed at addressing the nation's opioid epidemic. In addition, the FSMB plays an important national and international role in providing education on the issue of opioid abuse. Its Journal of Medical Regulation published an article in its April 2021 Issue on "Saskatchewan Physician's Opinions of Their Personalized Prescribing Profiles Related to Opioids, Benzodiazepines, Stimulants, and Gabapentin." In its July 2021 issue, an article on "The Adoption and Increased Use of Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances" was published. Board members have also participated in the FSMB Annual Meeting in past years, which is an educational and networking forum for physician regulators. The topic of opioid prescribing, which a recent FSMB annual survey of state medical boards found to be the most important topic facing state boards, is often a topic on the Annual Meeting agenda.

Opioid Prescribing Guideline

In July 2016, the Board issued its Opioid Prescribing Guideline. The Guideline, which encourages providers to implement best practices for responsible prescribing, was developed using the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention's Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain and the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development's Chronic Opioid Clinical Management Guidelines for Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Patient Care as primary resources. The Guideline was updated in 2019 and remains in place. The Board continues to monitor the Guideline. The Guideline is posted on the Department's website and is available here: <https://dps.wi.gov/Documents/BoardCouncils/MED/MEBGuidelinesv9.pdf>

2022 Goals for Addressing the Issue of Opioid Abuse as it Relates to the Practice of Medicine and Surgery in Wisconsin

Goal 1: Continuing Education Related to Prescribing Controlled Substances

The Board's goal is to continue to promote best practices for prescribing controlled substances in alignment with current data, including Board evaluation of its 2-hour opioid continuing education requirement and Department review of courses on opioid prescribing that may be used to meet the requirement.

Goal 2: Take Enforcement Action When Appropriate

The Board's goal is to, independently and in partnership with the Controlled Substances Board Referral Criteria Work Group, continue to proactively investigate physicians whose prescriptive practices with opioids may be inconsistent with the standard of minimally competent medical practice. In addition, the Board will continue to exercise its disciplinary authority to hold practitioners accountable for opioid diversion and abuse.

Goal 3: Opioid Prescribing Guideline

The Board will continue to monitor its prescribing Guideline and make updates as needed to keep it current and relevant to physicians and their patients.

Goal 4: Track and Monitor Physician Prescribing of Controlled Substances

The MEB will continue to explore ways to leverage the expertise of the ePDMP to effectively track and monitor physician prescribing of controlled substances and to identify opioid abuse trends. This may include discussions at Board meetings with ePDMP staff and/or review of CSB referrals, PDMP and CSB data and reports.

Goal 5: Continued Outreach and Leadership

The Board will continue to explore avenues independently and with other organizations such as the ePDMP and the FSMB to advance its active participation in statewide and national efforts to combat opioid abuse.

Actions taken by the Board to Achieve the Goals Identified in 2021 and Previous Reports

Goal 1: Continuing Education Related to Prescribing Controlled Substances

One of the Board's goals in 2020 was to assess the need to extend the requirement to complete continuing medical education related to prescribing controlled substances into the future. **Update:** The Board finalized a rule in March 2021 extending the requirement through the Board's renewal period that concludes in 2023.

Goal 2: Enforcement Action

The Board's goal is to, in partnership with the Controlled Substances Board, continue to proactively investigate physicians whose prescriptive practices with controlled substances may be inconsistent with the standard of minimally competent medical practice. **Update:** The Board has continued to proactively investigate physicians whose prescriptive practices with controlled substances may be inconsistent with the standard of minimally competent medical practice. They have done this in response to complaints directly from the public and in partnership with the CSB Referral Criteria

Work Group, which reviews reports generated from the ePDMP to determine whether physicians will be referred to the MEB for possible investigation. Through December 8, 2021, the CSB Referral Criteria Work Group had referred 10 cases to the MEB for further review.

Goal 3: Opioid Prescribing Guideline

The Board continues to monitor its Opioid Prescribing Guideline to ensure it is current and relevant to physicians and their patients. **Update:** The Guideline was monitored throughout 2021.

Goal 4: Continued Outreach and Leadership

As the Board recently experienced a significant change in its membership and leadership, it is the Board's goal to explore avenues through which it can continue its active participation in the statewide and national efforts to combat opioid abuse. **Update:** The Medical Examining Board (MEB) appointed Dr. Kris Ferguson, an Anesthesiologist and Pain Management specialist, to serve as the Board's representative on the State of CSB. The MEB includes a report from the CSB as a standing item on its monthly meeting agendas. The CSB's core functions include oversight of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP), referral of licensees to their disciplinary Boards due to dangerous prescribing practices through CSB Referral Criteria Workgroup, controlled substances drug scheduling, holding an annual hearing with law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to receive information on drug trends, and issuance of Special Use Authorization (SUA) Permits for controlled substances.

The ePDMP is increasingly important as a means for the CSB and the MEB to address the issue of opioid abuse. The ePDMP publishes quarterly reports and an interactive Public Statistics Dashboard that serve to proactively monitor licensees and their prescribing and dispensing practices for suspicious or critically dangerous conduct and when appropriate, to guide the CSB in its referral decisions. The ePDMP also tracks dispensing trends, such as the top 15 most dispensed monitored prescription drugs, and patient prescription history. Advanced data analytics empower the ePDMP to alert ePDMP users to potential indications of abuse or diversion, such as high daily dose and concurrent benzodiazepine and opioid prescription notifications. The ePDMP also receives referrals from Wisconsin law enforcement agencies. The latest CSB ePDMP Quarterly Report is available on the CSB webpage: <https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/BoardsCouncils/CSB/Reports.aspx>

In addition to the ePDMP online resources, the Medical Examining Board will continue to develop its online resources through the DSPS website. A link to the ePDMP website is available on the CSB's webpage. Agendas and minutes of MEB and CSB meetings are available on the DSPS website. The MEB's Prescribing Guideline is published on its website. The CSB ePDMP Quarterly Reports and CSB Annual Report are posted on the CSB website.

Finally, the CSB maintains a statutory position on the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA), which provides leadership and coordination of alcohol and other drug abuse issues confronting the state. More information about SCAODA is available here:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/scaoda/index.htm>

Robert Schultz
Chairperson

WISCONSIN OPTOMETRY EXAMINING BOARD

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Jeffrey Clark
Secretary

Wisconsin Optometry Examining Board Wis. Stat. s. 440.035 (2m) Report on Opioid Abuse – December 2021

Proactive Efforts Taken by the Board to Address the Issue of Opioid Abuse

Continuing Education Related to Prescribing Controlled Substances

For the biennium starting December 15, 2019, and ending December 14, 2021, the Optometry Examining Board (OEB) required licensees to complete two (2) hours of continuing education relating to prescribing controlled substances. In 2021, the Board began a review of its continuing education rule. Changes to the rule, including the provision in Opt 8.02 (1m) requiring 2 hours of responsible controlled substance prescribing continuing education, may be considered. This could include making the rule's responsible opioid prescribing provision permanent.

Creation of Best Practices

The OEB maintains the Best Practices for Prescribing Controlled Substances Guidelines to keep it up to date with current trends and changes. The Board's *Best Practices for Prescribing Controlled Substances Guidelines* are available on the Board's page at <https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/BoardsCouncils/Optometry/Default.aspx>. The OEB reviewed its Guidelines, previously approved on March 16, 2017, at its May 27, 2021, meeting. No changes were made to the existing Guidelines.

Collaboration with the Wisconsin Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Through its partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), the OEB maintains an established interrelationship with the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP). Both OEB and the ePDMP are administered by DSPS. At its January 21 meeting, the OEB appointed Robert Schulz as its ePDMP Liaison and Emmylou Wilson as its alternate ePDMP liaison. The ePDMP is very well-regarded as a resource in efforts to combat the ongoing prescription drug abuse epidemic in Wisconsin. By providing information about controlled substance prescriptions that are dispensed in the state, it aids healthcare professionals in their prescribing and dispensing decisions. The ePDMP also fosters the ability of pharmacies, healthcare professionals, law enforcement agencies, and public health officials to work together to reduce the misuse, abuse, and diversion of prescribed controlled substance medications. More information is available on the ePDMP website: <https://pdmp.wi.gov/> In addition, the Wisconsin Controlled Substances Board (CSB) Referral Criteria Work Group (also administered by DSPS) uses ePDMP data to determine whether to refer prescribing concerns to the OEB.

Education on the Issue of Opioid Abuse

The OEB annually sends at least one member to the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry, Inc. (ARBO) Annual Meeting to interact with regulatory colleagues and discuss timely and relevant topics and

shared concerns within the optometry regulatory community. The Board reviews and discusses the ARBO meeting report, which summarizes national issues and trends impacting Optometry examining boards across the jurisdictions. The Board designated public member Peter Source to attend the 2021 ARBO Virtual Annual Meeting on June 19-21, and he delivered the summary report to the Board at its September 21 meeting.

In addition, the OEB will continue to periodically explore ways to work with ePDMP and other DSPS staff and resources to encourage licensees who have a DEA Registration Number to use the ePDMP effectively as part of their prescribing practice. The DSPS website, which links to the ePDMP website, the CSB webpages and the OEB webpages, will continue to serve as a key resource for prescribers.

Goals for 2022 to Address the Issue of Opioid Abuse as it Relates to the Practice of Optometry in Wisconsin

Goal 1: Evaluate the 2-credit Continuing Education Requirement Relating to Prescribing Controlled Substances

Opt 8.02 (1m) requires 2 hours of continuing education on the topic of responsible prescribing of controlled substances for the biennial registration period commencing December 15, 2019 and ending December 14, 2021. The OEB will decide whether to adopt an administrative rule to continue that 2-hour requirement beyond the 2019-2021 biennium. A scope statement regarding the Board's continuing education rule has been published in the Wisconsin Administrative Register. Changes to the rule, including the provision in Opt 8.02 (1m) requiring 2 hours of responsible controlled substance prescribing continuing education, may be considered. This could include making the rule's responsible opioid prescribing provision permanent.

Goal 2: Take Enforcement Action When Appropriate

Currently, if an investigation of an optometrist's prescriptive practices occurs, it is conducted in response to a complaint filed against the optometrist. In addition to actively pursuing opioid prescribing complaints filed by the public against optometrists, the Board, in collaboration with the CSB through its Referral Criteria Workgroup, will proactively investigate optometrists whose prescriptive practices with controlled substances prescribing may deviate from the course of legitimate professional practice or constitute a danger to the health, welfare, or safety of patients or the public.

Goal 3: Track and Monitor Optometrist Prescribing of Controlled Substances

The OEB will continue to explore ways to leverage the expertise of the ePDMP to effectively track and monitor optometrist prescribing of controlled substances and to identify opioid abuse trends. This may include discussions at Board meetings with ePDMP staff and/or review of CSB referrals, PDMP and CSB data and reports.

Goal 4: Review and Update the Best Practices for Prescribing Controlled Substances Guidelines as Necessary

The OEB will review the OEB's *Best Practices for Prescribing Controlled Substances Guidelines* when needed and make updates as necessary.

Goal 5: Educate Licensees Registered with the ePDMP

The OEB will work with ePDMP staff as necessary to explore possible ways to educate opioid prescribers, including the small number of optometry licensees who have a DEA Registration Number, on how to effectively use the PDMP as part of their prescribing practice. The Board will continue to exercise creative use of the OEB's website and other DSPS website resources.

Updates on Goals from the 2021 Report and Past Reports for Addressing the Issue of Opioid Abuse as it Relates to the Practice of Optometry in Wisconsin

Goal 1: Evaluate the 2-credit Continuing Education Requirement Relating to Prescribing Controlled Substances.

Opt 8.02 (1m) requires 2 hours of continuing education on the topic of responsible prescribing of controlled substances for the biennial registration period commencing December 15, 2019 and ending December 14, 2021. The OEB will decide whether to adopt an administrative rule to continue that 2-hour requirement beyond the current biennium. **Update:** A scope statement regarding the OEB's continuing education rule was published in the Wisconsin Administrative Register. The OEB approved it at its May 27 meeting. Changes to the rule, including the provision in Opt 8.02 (1m) may be considered for amendment by the Board in 2022. This could include making the rule's responsible opioid prescribing provision permanent.

Goal 2: Tracking Trends

The Optometry Examining Board will invite Prescription Drug Monitoring Program staff to a 2021 board meeting to receive an update on the optometric prescribing of controlled substances to aid the board in tracking and reviewing trends in prescribing by licensed optometrists. **Update:** No referrals to the OEB were made by the CSB in 2021.

Goal 3: Complete the Update of the Controlled Substances Prescribing Guidelines

At the Optometry Examining Board's meeting on September 24, 2020, the board designated a liaison to work with DSPS staff to develop recommendations to update the *Controlled Substances Prescribing Guidelines*. The board will review those recommendations at their January 21, 2021 meeting. **Update:** At its May 27, 2021 meeting, the OEB reviewed the *Best Practices for Prescribing Controlled Substances Guidelines* and approved the existing Guidelines without amendment.

Goal 4: Communications to Licensees Registered with the PDMP

The Optometry Examining Board will work with PDMP staff to develop recommendations for licensees who have a DEA Registration Number, which is a small subset of licensees, to encourage them to use the PDMP effectively as part of their prescribing practice. **Update:** A link to the ePDMP website is available on the CSB's webpage. Agendas and minutes of OEB and CSB meetings are available on the DSPS website. The OEB's Prescribing Guidelines are published on its website. The CSB's ePDMP Quarterly Reports and Annual Report are posted on its website. In person communication outreach opportunities were limited in 2021 due to COVID.

Goals from 2019

Goal 1: The Optometry Examining Board has scheduled a standing item for the annual May board agenda to receive updates from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which will aid the board in tracking and reviewing trends in prescribing by licensed optometrists. **Update:** At the OEB's September 24, 2020 meeting, the ePDMP Program presented an update on the optometric prescribing of controlled substances.

Goal 2: The Optometry Examining Board will work with PDMP staff to develop recommendations for licensees who have a DEA Registration Number, which is a small subset of licensees, to encourage them to use the PDMP effectively as part of their prescribing practice. **Update:** The OEB will continue to periodically explore ways to work with ePDMP and other DSPS staff and other resources to encourage licensees who have a DEA Registration Number, a small subset of licensees, to use the PDMP effectively as part of their prescribing practice. The DSPS website, which links to the ePDMP website, the CSB webpages, and the OEB webpages, will continue to serve as a key resource for prescribers.

Robert M. Sage

Chairperson

Kerry M. Connolly

Vice Chairperson

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WISCONSIN PODIATRY AFFILIATED

CREDENTIALING BOARD



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Wisconsin Podiatry Affiliated Credentialing Board Wis. Stat. s. 440.035 (2m) Report on Opioid Abuse – December 2021

Proactive Efforts Taken by the Board to Address the Issue of Opioid Abuse

Continuing Education Related to Prescribing Controlled Substances

In June 2021, the Podiatry Affiliated Credentialing Board (PACB) adopted rules that established requirements for the completion of continuing podiatric medical education related to prescribing controlled substances. The rules became effective in December, 2021. The rules establish a requirement that podiatrists renewing their license on October 31, 2022 complete at least 2 of the 50 hours of continuing podiatric medical education in a course or program related to opioid prescribing. The rules also create a mandatory audit for CME compliance for any licensee under investigation by the Board for misconduct.

Creation of Best Practices

In June 2020, the PACB reviewed and adopted the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board (MEB) Opioid Prescribing Guideline dated January 16, 2019. The Board continues to enforce the MEB Guideline. The Guideline is posted on the PACB web page.

Collaboration with the Wisconsin Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Through its partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), the Board maintains an established interrelationship with the Wisconsin Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP). The PACB and the ePDMP are both administered by DSPS. The ePDMP is very well-regarded as a resource in efforts to combat the ongoing prescription drug abuse epidemic in Wisconsin. By providing information about controlled substance prescriptions that are dispensed in the state, it aids healthcare professionals in their prescribing and dispensing decisions. The ePDMP also fosters the ability of pharmacies, healthcare professionals, law enforcement agencies, and public health officials to work together to reduce the misuse, abuse, and diversion of prescribed controlled substance medications. More information is available on the ePDMP website: <https://pdmp.wi.gov/> In addition, the Wisconsin Controlled Substances Board (CSB) Referral Criteria Work Group (also administered by DSPS) uses ePDMP data to determine whether to refer prescribing concerns to the Podiatry Affiliated Credentialing Board.

Education on the Issue of Opioid Abuse

The PACB will continue to periodically explore ways to work with ePDMP and other DSPS staff and resources to encourage licensees who have a DEA Registration Number to use the ePDMP effectively as part of their prescribing practice. The DSPS website, which links to the ePDMP website, the CSB webpages, and the PACB webpages, will continue to serve as a key resource for prescribers.

2022 Goals for Addressing the Issue of Opioid Abuse as it Relates to the Practice of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery in Wisconsin

Goal 1: Take Enforcement Action When Appropriate

Currently, if an investigation of a podiatrist's prescriptive practices occurs, it is conducted in response to a complaint filed against the podiatrist. In addition to actively pursuing opioid prescribing complaints filed by the public against podiatrists, the Board, in collaboration with the CSB Referral Criteria Workgroup, will proactively investigate podiatrists whose prescriptive practices with controlled substances prescribing may deviate from the course of legitimate professional practice or constitute a danger to the health, welfare, or safety of patients or the public.

Goal 2: Track and Monitor Podiatrist Prescribing of Controlled Substances

The PACB will continue to explore ways to leverage the expertise of the ePDMP to effectively track and monitor podiatrist prescribing of controlled substances and to identify opioid abuse trends. This may include discussions at Board meetings with ePDMP staff and/or review of CSB referrals, PDMP and CSB data and reports.

Goal 3: Review for Adoption Amendments to the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board Opioid Prescribing Guideline

The Board will review as needed, and, as appropriate, adopt updates to the *Wisconsin Medical Examining Board Opioid Prescribing Guideline*.

Goal 4: Educate Licensees Registered with the ePDMP

The PACB will work with ePDMP staff as necessary to explore possible ways to educate opioid prescribers, including the small number of podiatry licensees on how to effectively use the PDMP as part of their prescribing practice. The Board will continue to exercise creative use of the PACB's website and other DSPS website resources.

Updates on Goals from the 2021 Report and Past Reports for Addressing the Issue of Opioid Abuse as it Relates to the Practice of Podiatry in Wisconsin

Goal 1: Education on the Issue of Opioid Abuse

Based on information presented by Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) staff to the Board in June 2020, the Board recognized a need to educate licensees on the requirement to register with the PDMP. The Board's goal is to work with the Department of Safety and Professional Services and the Wisconsin Podiatric Medical Association to provide this education. **Update:** The DSPS website, which links to the ePDMP website, the CSB webpages and the PACB webpages, will continue to serve as a key resource for prescribers. Outreach opportunities were limited in 2021 due to COVID.

The PACB is an affiliate of the MEB, which includes a report from the CSB as a standing item on its monthly meeting agendas. The CSB's core functions include oversight of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP), controlled substances drug scheduling, issuance of Special Use Authorization (SUA) Permits for controlled substances and holding an annual hearing with law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to receive information on drug trends.

The ePDMP publishes CSB ePDMP Quarterly Reports and an interactive Public Statistics Dashboard that serve to proactively monitor licensees and their prescribing and dispensing practices for suspicious or critically dangerous conduct and when appropriate, to guide the CSB in making a referral to the PACB. The ePDMP tracks dispensing trends, such as the top 15 most dispensed monitored prescription drugs, and patient prescription history. Advanced data analytics empower the ePDMP to alert ePDMP users to potential

indications of abuse or diversion, such as high daily dose and concurrent benzodiazepine and opioid prescription notifications. The ePDMP also receives referrals from Wisconsin law enforcement agencies. The latest ePDMP quarterly report is available on the CSB webpage:
<https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/BoardsCouncils/CSB/Reports.aspx>

Goal 2: Enforcement Action

Currently, an investigation of a podiatrist's prescriptive practices occurs in response to a complaint filed by a member of the public. In addition, The CSB Referral Work Group uses reports generated from the ePDMP to refer podiatrists to the Board for possible investigation. **Update:** The PACB did not receive any referrals from the CSB Referral Work Group in 2021.

Goal 3: Opioid Prescribing Guideline

The Board will continue to review and, as appropriate, adopt updates to the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board Opioid Prescribing Guideline. **Update:** No updates were made by the MEB to the Guideline in 2020 or 2021. The PACB continues to track and adhere to the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board Opioid Prescribing Guideline dated January 16, 2019. The PACB adopted the (updated) 2019 MEB Opioid Prescribing Guideline at its October 15, 2020 meeting.