



November 1, 2023

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, the Wisconsin Physician Assistant Affiliated Credentialing Board and the Wisconsin Podiatry Affiliated Credentialing Board, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute § 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
4822 Madison Yards Way
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Madison, WI 53708-8366

Wisconsin Dentistry Examining Board
c/o Will Johnson, Executive Director
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Wisconsin Medical Examining Board
Wisconsin Optometry Examining Board
Wisconsin Physician Assistant Affiliated Credentialing Board
Wisconsin Podiatry Affiliated Credentialing Board
c/o Tom Ryan, Executive Director
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Hereth', is written over a white background.

Dan Hereth
Secretary-designee

cc: Robert W. Weinman, RN, Chair, Wisconsin Board of Nursing
Matthew R. Bistan, DDS, Chair, Wisconsin Dentistry Examining Board
Clarence Chou, MD, Vice Chair, Wisconsin Medical Examining Board
Robert C. Schulz, OD, Chair, Wisconsin Optometry Examining Board
Jennifer Jarrett, PA-C, Chair, Wisconsin Physician Assistant Affiliated Credentialing Board
Jack Hutter, DPM, Chair, Wisconsin Podiatry Affiliated Credentialing Board

Robert Weinman
Chairperson

Vera Guyton
Vice Chairperson

Janice Edelstein
Secretary

WISCONSIN BOARD OF NURSING



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2023 Wisconsin Board of Nursing (BON) Report on Opioid Abuse

Proactive Efforts Taken by the BON to Address Opioid Abuse

- 1. Controlled Substances Prescribing Guidelines** – The BON adopted Best Practices for Prescribing Controlled Substances 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 BON 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/NURGuideline.pdf>

- 2. Controlled Substances Continuing Education** – The BON 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 (ePDMP) Information in Newsletter** – The BON has highlighted information regarding the ePDMP in their newsletter.
- 4. ePDMP Prescribing Metrics for Prescribing Practice Complaints** – The BON Screening Panel reviews the ePDMP 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 (CSB)** – A member of the BON is designated as a standing member of the CSB. The CSB is instrumental in the efforts to combat opioid abuse, primarily through its involvement with the ePDMP and the scheduling of controlled substances under Wisconsin’s Controlled Substances Act.

2023 Goals for Addressing the Issue of Opioid Abuse as it Relates to the Practice of Nursing

1. **Compliance with the ePDMP Provider Review Requirement** – The BON will continue its effort to increase compliance by raising awareness of the ePDMP provider review requirement.
2. **Education** – The BON will continue to explore opportunities to expand its educational outreach in the areas of safe opioid prescribing and opioid abuse.
3. **ePDMP Outreach** – The BON will continue to work with ePDMP staff to provide information concerning the ePDMP to its licensees.
4. **ePDMP Prescribing Outliers** – The BON 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 BON Screening Panel will continue to review the ePDMP Prescribing Metrics Summary for any advanced practice nurse prescriber who has a complaint relating to the advanced practice nurse prescriber’s prescribing practices.
5. **Controlled Substances Prescribing Guidelines.** Currently, the BON adopts the 2016 Best Practices for Prescribing Controlled Substances Guidelines. The Board is currently reviewing the updated 2022 Center for Disease Control Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids which were released in December 2022, and will likely adopt before January 1, 2024.
6. **Administrative Rules** – The BON will review the delegated authorities and actions of registered nurses and licensed practical nurses in the administration of medications and controlled substances (N 6).

Actions Taken by the BON to Achieve the Goals Identified in Previous Reports

1. **Compliance with Provider Review Requirement** – The BON’s goal was to continue its effort to increase compliance by raising awareness of the ePDMP provider review requirement. As a means of facilitating this effort, the Board has requested ePDMP staff to provide data on waivers for advanced practice nurse prescribers.
2. **Education** – The BON’s goal was to explore opportunities to expand its educational outreach in the areas of safe opioid prescribing and opioid abuse. The Board has requested ePDMP 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. **ePDMP Outreach** – The BON’s goal was to continue to work with ePDMP staff to provide information concerning the ePDMP to its licensees. As a member of the CSB, an appointed member of the BON, regularly meets with and receives updates from ePDMP staff. During the current reporting period, ePDMP staff provided the following updates on the enhancement of the ePDMP at the CSB meetings January to May 2023:
 - a. **WI ePDMP 3-Year Holistic Enhancement:** DSPTS will conclude the 3-year enhancement project by the end of Summer 2023. The new WI ePDMP system will enable time-responsive data-processing, upgrade the patient matching capacities, and improve the user interface.
 - b. **New pricing models of EHR integration:** DSPTS continued the program that introduced the elimination of start-up and monthly fees associated with integrating into electronic health record systems, expanding access to the ePDMP while simultaneously combating prescription opioid misuse.

- c. **National Provider Identifier (NPI) to be required for ePDMP User Accounts in 2024:** This requirement will enable the ePDMP to accept dispensing of gabapentin or any non-scheduled drug to be monitored in the future particularly those that are prescribed by a provider who does not have an active DEA number. The NPI key will then be used to match dispensing records when a DEA number is not present.
 - d. **CSB ePDMP quarterly reports:** 2023 Q1 and Q2 reports were completed and made available on the CSB website.
4. **ePDMP prescribing outliers** – The BON’s goal was to continue to review referrals of advanced practice nurse prescribers from the CSB to identify those advanced practice nurse prescribers whose prescribing practices are outliers. The CSB referred a total of zero advanced practice nurse prescribers to the BON during the current reviewing period (Jan-May 2023).

Matthew Bistan
Chairperson

Shaheda Govani
Vice Chairperson

Troy Alton
Secretary

DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD



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2023 DENTISTRY EXAMINING BOARD (DEB) REPORT ON OPIOID ABUSE

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

1. **Controlled Substances Prescribing Guidelines** – The DEB adopted Best Practices for Prescribing Controlled Substances Guidelines (Guidelines) on April 12, 2017. The DEB 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>.
2. **Statewide Outreach** - Through its partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), the DEB 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) uses ePDMP data to determine whether to refer prescribing concerns to the DEB. Its Annual and Quarterly ePDMP Reports are published on the CSB website: <https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/BoardsCouncils/CSB/Reports.aspx>.
3. **Continuing Education Related to Prescribing Controlled Substances** – The DEB currently has a continuing education requirement in place of 2 hours on the topic of responsible prescribing of controlled substances for the treatment of acute dental pain. This requirement was in effect for the 2019 and 2021 renewal bienniums. The DEB has completed work on this rule, DE 13, which makes the 2-hour continuing education requirement permanent and it has become effective as of October 1, 2023.

2023 Goals for Addressing the Issue of Opioid Abuse as it Relates to the Practice of Dentistry

Goal 1: Continuing Education Related to Prescribing Controlled Substances

The DEB's goal is to finish its rule project on revising the requirement of 2 hours of responsible controlled substances prescribing to apply in all renewal bienniums moving forward. The DEB anticipates that this change will be effective in late 2023.

Goal 2: Take Enforcement Action When Appropriate

The DEB's goal is to, independently and in partnership with the CSB, continue to proactively investigate dentists whose prescriptive practices with controlled substances and utilizing the ePDMP may be inconsistent with the standard of minimally competent dental practice. In addition, the DEB will continue to exercise its disciplinary authority to hold practitioners accountable for controlled substance diversion and abuse.

Goal 3: Opioid Prescribing Guideline

The DEB will continue to monitor its prescribing guidelines and make updates as needed to keep it current and relevant to dentists and their patients. The DEB's guidelines can be found on its website: <https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/BoardsCouncils/Dentistry/Default.aspx>

Goal 4: Track and Monitor Physician Prescribing of Controlled Substances

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

Goal 5: Continued Outreach and Leadership

The DEB will continue to explore avenues independently and with other organizations such as the ePDMP and the Federation of State Medical Boards to advance its active participation in statewide and national efforts to combat opioid abuse.

Action Taken on 2022 Report Goals

1. **Increase the Number of Dentists Registered with the ePDMP** – In previous years of this report, all dentists were considered as eligible for registration in the ePDMP in setting a goal for the upcoming year. In reviewing ePDMP data, a total of 945 or 19.4% of total licensed dentists in Wisconsin are exempt from participating in the ePDMP. This is an important consideration in goal setting related to increasing registration rates in the program. (More details on ePDMP exempt can be found at https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/csb/4/08)

As of September 20, 2023, the total number of active ePDMP registered users (prescribers only) in dentistry is 2,927, out of 4,873 total licensees. The registration rate is 60.1%, which is a 1.8% increase from 2022 (58.3%). When removing the licensed dentists with the ePDMP-exemption status from the calculation, a total of 74.5% of dentists (total registered users 2,927 divided by the total non-exempt licensees 3,928) participate in the ePDMP, which equates to a 1% increase compared to last year (73.5%). The goal therefore remains the same as in 2021: to increase the percentage of total of non-exempt dentists registered with the ePDMP to 78.8%, given the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. **Education Regarding the Opioid Prescribing** – In an effort to increase ePDMP utilization and expand educational outreach on opioid prescribing, the CSB, in collaboration with the DEB, has been working on a letter to prescribing dentists reminding them of their ePDMP review responsibilities related to controlled substances prescribing.

Email notifications have been sent bi-monthly to prescribing dentists who issued prescriptions which required the review of the ePDMP, but did not check the ePDMP. As of September 20, 2023, four rounds of these ePDMP usage compliance notifications were sent in March, May, July, and September.

3. **Controlled Substances Continuing Education** - The DEB's 2021 goal on controlled substances continuing education was to continue the requirement that each dentist to complete two (2) hours of continuing education on 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 is now effective.

**WISCONSIN MEDICAL EXAMINING
BOARD**



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2023 Wisconsin Medical Examining Board (MEB) Report on Opioid Abuse

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

Continuing Education Related to Prescribing Controlled Substances

The MEB created additional options and flexibility for obtaining continuing medical education (CME) with a new rule, which was adopted at its August 2023 meeting and completed in time for the 2021-23 CME reporting period.

First, the rule provision requiring that two required CME hours relate to responsible opioid prescribing was expanded to include courses or programs concerning controlled substances in general, and not just opioid controlled substances. This rule also aligns with the standards adopted for program approval by the Drug Enforcement Administration to fulfill their 8-hour requirement.

Second, the MEB removed the requirement that CME related to opioid prescribing or controlled substances be preapproved by the MEB. The preapproval requirement had become outdated and limited options for physicians. It also created an increased administrative burden surrounding approval. By eliminating it, the MEB reduced red tape and increased options for physicians to take CME that is appropriate and useful to their practice while still aligning with the MEB's values and standards.

Third, the rule removed a sunset provision in the former rule, so the new two-hour requirement is permanent going forward.

Statewide Outreach

Through its partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), the MEB has continued to develop its 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. The ePDMP strives to maintain an active outreach calendar. More information is available on the ePDMP website: <https://pdmp.wi.gov/> In addition, the Wisconsin Controlled Substances Board (CSB) uses ePDMP data to determine whether to refer prescribing concerns to the MEB. 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). The FSMB collects and maintains information on state and national opioid laws, policies (including opioid/pain management-related CME requirements) and trends, and engages in outreach, such as, its participation in the Opioid Regulatory Collaborative (ORC). The ORC is a 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 Workgroup on Opioid and Addiction Treatment reviews FSMB policies related to opioids, including prescribing, opioid use disorder screening and treatment, and physician health. Consultation by the Workgroup involves several perspectives from physicians, patients, academia, and federal agencies, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the United States Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Several MEB members attended the FSMB Annual Meeting in 2023, which is an educational and networking forum for physician regulators. The topic of opioid prescribing was addressed in a session reviewing trends and key policy developments. In addition, the FSMB maintains a web page on Opioids and Pain Management that includes links to: federal government resources; state opioid policies; a state-by-state overview of prescription drug monitoring programs, medical marijuana laws, regulations and guidelines, and opioid/pain management related continuing medical education; a board-by-board overview of laws, regulations and guidelines on pain management; and a compendium of FSMB policies on opioid and pain management. In addition, in 2023, the FSMB created a free webinar entitled "Mitigating Overdose Risk in the Opioid Epidemic."

Opioid Prescribing Guideline

In July 2016, the MEB issued its Opioid Prescribing Guideline. The Guideline was updated in 2019 and again in 2022. The MEB continues to monitor the Guideline. It is posted on DSPS's website.

2024 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 MEB's goal is to continue to promote best practices for prescribing controlled substances in alignment with current data, including ongoing MEB monitoring of its 2-hour controlled substances continuing education requirement.

Goal 2: Take Enforcement Action When Appropriate

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

Goal 3: Opioid Prescribing Guideline

The MEB will continue to monitor its Opioid prescribing Guideline and consider 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 MEB meetings with ePDMP staff, review of CSB referrals, PDMP and CSB data and reports.

Goal 5: Continued Outreach and Leadership

The MEB 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 MEB to Achieve the Goals Identified in 2022 and Previous Reports

Goal 1: Continuing Education Related to Prescribing Controlled Substances

The MEB finalized a rule in March 2021 extending its controlled substances 2 credit prescribing CE requirement through the MEB's 2023 renewal period. In 2023, the MEB made the 2-credit controlled substances prescribing CE requirement permanent and eliminated a requirement for MEB course review, expanding options available to physicians in selecting CE courses. See above.

Goal 2: Enforcement Action

The MEB has continued to proactively investigate physicians whose prescriptive practices with controlled substances and use of the ePDMP 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, which reviews reports generated from the ePDMP to determine whether physicians will be referred to the MEB for possible investigation. A total of 11 MEB licensees were referred to the MEB by the CSB as of September 2023.

Goal 3: Opioid Prescribing Guideline

The MEB continues to strive to keep its Opioid Prescribing Guideline current. The Guideline, originally created in 2016, was updated in 2019 and again in late 2022. The most recent update was posted to DSPS's web page, and it was announced in the MEB's Newsletter.

Goal 4: Track and Monitor Physician Prescribing of Controlled Substances

At its June meeting, the Program Lead for the ePDMP delivered a report to the MEB that included data on annual dispensing of monitored prescriptions by drug classes, ePDMP registration and usage, prescribing of monitored drugs and opioid prescribing changes (opioid prescriptions/number of licensees). In addition, the report provided information relating to gabapentin.

Goal 5: Continued Outreach and Leadership

The MEB appointed Dr. Gregory Schmeling, an orthopedic surgeon, to serve as the MEB's representative on the 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 ePDMP, alerting boards of potentially dangerous prescribing practices, controlled substances drug scheduling, and issuance of Special Use Authorization (SUA) Permits for controlled substances.

At the request of the CSB, the MEB reviewed the current controlled substance scheduling status of kratom in Wisconsin at its September and October 2022 meetings.

In addition, 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://dps.wi.gov/Pages/BoardsCouncils/CSB/Reports.aspx>

The MEB 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 DSPS's 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>

Optometry Examining Board

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2023 Wisconsin Optometry Examining Board Report on Opioid Abuse

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

Continuing Education Related to Prescribing Controlled Substances

For the 2019-2021 biennium, the Optometry Examining Board (OEB) required licensees to complete two (2) hours of continuing education relating to prescribing controlled substances. The OEB is currently drafting a rule that would include a permanent, one (1) credit, controlled substances prescribing requirement for all optometrists that hold a DEA permit.

OEB Controlled Substances Prescribing Guidelines

The OEB maintains Opioid Prescribing Guidelines to stay current with the Medical Examining Board's Opioid Prescribing Guideline. The Board continues to track changes to the Wisconsin Medical Board's Guideline. The Board's *Best Practices for Prescribing Controlled Substances Guidelines* on the Board's webpage. The OEB adopted the Medical Examining Board's updated Guideline at its September meeting.

Collaboration with the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Through its partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), the OEB maintains an established relationship with the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP). At its January 2023 meeting, the OEB appointed a primary and alternate ePDMP liaison. The ePDMP is recognized as an effective resource in efforts to combat prescription drug abuse in Wisconsin. By providing timely information about controlled substance prescriptions that are dispensed in the state, the ePDMP assists 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.

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. This forum provides an opportunity for education on opioid abuse issues. The Board typically reviews and discusses the ARBO meeting summary report following the meeting. In 2023, the Board sent a Board and staff representative to the ARBO Annual Meeting, and a summary report was delivered to the Board at its July meeting.

In addition, the OEB will continue to periodically explore ways to work with ePDMP and other DSPS staff and resources to encourage licensees to use the ePDMP effectively as part of their prescribing practice. The ePDMP strives to maintain an active outreach calendar. The DSPS website, which links to the ePDMP website, the CSB webpage and the OEB webpage, will continue to serve as a key resource for prescribers.

Goals for 2024 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

Wis. Admin. Code OPT §8.02 (1m) required 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 Board is currently drafting a rule that would require one credit of CE in responsible controlled substances prescribing for all optometrists that hold a DEA permit.

Goal 2: Take Enforcement Action When Appropriate

The Board's goal is to proactively investigate optometrists whose prescriptive practices with opioids and use of the ePDMP may be inconsistent with the standard of minimally competent practice. In addition, the Board will exercise its disciplinary authority when appropriate to hold practitioners accountable for opioid diversion and abuse.

Goal 3: Track and Monitor Optometrist Prescribing of Controlled Substances

At its July 2023 meeting, the Program Lead for the ePDMP delivered a report to the Board that included data on annual dispensing of monitored prescriptions by drug classes, ePDMP registration and usage, prescribing of monitored drugs and opioid prescribing changes (opioid prescriptions/number of licensees). In addition, the report provided information relating to gabapentin.

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 review of CSB referrals, PDMP and CSB data and reports.

Goal 4: Review and Update the Opioid Prescribing Guidelines as Necessary

The OEB adopted the recent changes to the Medical Examining Board's Opioid Prescribing Guideline at its September meeting.

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 relatively 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 rely on the OEB's website and other DSPS tools as educational resources.

Updates on Goals from the 2022 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) required 2 hours of continuing education on the topic of responsible prescribing of controlled substances for the 2019-2021 registration period. The Board is writing a rule that would add a permanent 1-credit controlled substances prescribing CE requirement for optometrists that hold a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) permit.

Goal 3: Track and Monitor Optometrist Prescribing of Controlled Substances

The Board appointed a liaison and alternate to the ePDMP program as the principal contact(s) regarding the ePDMP and opioid use trends. At its April 2023 meeting, the Program Lead for the ePDMP delivered a report to the Board that included data on annual dispensing of monitored prescriptions by drug classes, ePDMP registration and usage, prescribing of monitored drugs and opioid prescribing changes (opioid prescriptions/number of licensees). In addition, the report provided information relating to gabapentin.

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

The Guidelines remained in place for 2023. The Board continues to track changes to the Medical Examining Board's Guideline.

Goal 5: Educate Licensees Registered with the ePDMP

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.



2023 Wisconsin Physician Assistant Affiliated Credentialing Board (PAACB) Report on Opioid Abuse

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

Continuing Education Related to Prescribing Controlled Substances

In 2023, the PAACB completed permanent rules that require the completion of two hours per biennium of continuing medical education on the topic of controlled substances prescribing. The objective of the rule is to ensure minimal competence and promote safe practices for prescribing controlled substances.

Statewide Outreach

Through its partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), the PAACB will continue to develop a 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 timely 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. The ePDMP strives to maintain an active outreach calendar. More information is available for prescribers, dispensers and the public on the ePDMP website.

2024 Goals for Addressing the Issue of Opioid Abuse

Goal 1: Continuing Education Related to Prescribing Controlled Substances

The PAACB's goal is to ensure minimal competence and promote safe practices for prescribing controlled substances through its two-hour controlled substances prescribing continuing education requirement. The PAACB will continue to monitor opioid abuse trends and its current CE rule.

Goal 2: Take Enforcement Action When Appropriate

The PAACB's goal is to proactively investigate physician assistants whose prescriptive practices with opioids and use of the ePDMP may be inconsistent with the standard of minimally competent practice. In addition, the PAACB will exercise its disciplinary authority when appropriate to hold practitioners accountable for opioid diversion and abuse.

Goal 3: Track and Monitor Physician Assistant Prescribing of Controlled Substances

The PAACB will explore ways to leverage the expertise of the ePDMP to effectively track and monitor physician assistant prescribing of controlled substances and to identify opioid abuse trends. This may include discussions at PAACB meetings with ePDMP staff and/or review of ePDMP and Controlled Substances Board (CSB) data and reports.

Goal 4: Continued Outreach and Leadership

The PAACB will continue to explore avenues to work independently and with other organizations such as the ePDMP and the Federation of State Medical Boards to advance its active participation in statewide and national efforts to combat opioid abuse.

Actions taken by the PAACB to Achieve the Goals Identified in 2022 and Previous Reports

Goal 1: Continuing Education Related to Prescribing Controlled Substances

The PAACB finalized its rule implementing the physician assistant practice act in 2023. The rule included a two-hour controlled substances prescribing continuing education requirement.

Goal 2: Take Enforcement Action When Appropriate

Currently, if an investigation of a physician assistant's prescriptive practices occurs, it is conducted in response to a complaint filed against the physician assistant. Complaints may be initiated by the public or the CSB, which reviews reports generated from the ePDMP to determine whether physician assistants will be referred to the PAACB for possible investigation. One PA licensee was referred to the PAACB by the CSB as of September 8, 2023.

Goal 3: Track and Monitor Physician Assistant Prescribing of Controlled Substances

At its July 2023 meeting, the Program Lead for the ePDMP delivered a report to the PAACB that included data on annual dispensing of monitored prescriptions by drug classes, ePDMP registration and usage, prescribing of monitored drugs and opioid prescribing changes (opioid prescriptions/number of licensees). In addition, the report provided information relating to gabapentin.

Goal 4: Continued Outreach and Leadership

The PAACB appointed members to attend CSB meetings in 2023.



2023 Wisconsin Podiatry Affiliated Credentialing Board (PACB) Report on Opioid Abuse

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

Continuing Education Related to Prescribing Controlled Substances

In 2021, PACB rules that established requirements for the completion of continuing podiatric medical education related to prescribing controlled substances became effective. The rules established a requirement that podiatrists renewing their license in 2022 complete at least 2 of the 50 hours of continuing podiatric medical education in a course or program related to opioid prescribing.

Creation of Safe Practices

In February 2023, the PACB reviewed and adopted the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board (MEB) Opioid Prescribing Guideline that was amended in December 2022. The PACB continues to enforce the Guideline. The Guideline is posted on the PACB web page. The PACB will continue to track MEB updates to the Guideline.

Collaboration with the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Through its partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DPS), the PACB maintains an established relationship with the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP). The ePDMP is well-regarded as a resource in efforts to combat the ongoing prescription drug abuse epidemic in Wisconsin. By providing timely 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.

Education on the Issue of Opioid Abuse

The PACB will continue to periodically explore ways to work with ePDMP and DPS staff and provide resources to encourage licensees to use the ePDMP effectively as part of their prescribing practice. The ePDMP strives to maintain an active outreach calendar. The DPS website, which links to the ePDMP website, the Controlled Substances Board (CSB) webpages, and the PACB webpages, will continue to serve as a key resource for prescribers.

2024 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

The PACB's goal is to continue to proactively investigate podiatrists whose prescriptive practices with opioids and use of the ePDMP may be inconsistent with the standard of minimally competent podiatric medical practice. In addition, the PACB will continue to exercise its disciplinary authority to hold practitioners accountable for opioid diversion and abuse.

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 PACB meetings with ePDMP staff and/or review of the ePDMP and CSB data and reports.

Goal 3: Review for Adoption Amendments to the MEB Opioid Prescribing Guideline

The Board will review as needed, and, as appropriate, adopt updates to the *MEB 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 relatively small number of podiatry licensees statewide on how to effectively use the PDMP as part of their prescribing practice. The PACB will continue to rely on the PACB's website and other DSPS website resources.

Updates on Goals from the 2022 Report and Past Reports for Addressing the Issue of Opioid Abuse as it Relates to the Practice of Podiatry in Wisconsin

Goal 1: Take Enforcement Action When Appropriate

Currently, an investigation of a podiatrist's prescriptive practices occurs in response to a complaint filed with the PACB.

Goal 2: Track and Monitor Podiatrist Prescribing of Controlled Substances

At its June meeting, the Program Lead for the ePDMP delivered a report to the PACB that included data on annual dispensing of monitored prescriptions by drug classes, ePDMP registration and usage, prescribing of monitored drugs and opioid prescribing changes (opioid prescriptions/number of licensees). In addition, the report provided information relating to gabapentin.

Goal 3: Opioid Prescribing Guideline

The PACB will continue to review and, as appropriate, adopt updates to the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board Opioid Prescribing Guideline. The PACB adopted 2022 MEB updates to its Opioid Prescribing Guideline at its February 2023 meeting.

Goal 4: Education on the Issue of Opioid Abuse

The PACB has continued to educate licensees on the requirement to register with the ePDMP. The PACB's goal is to work with DSPS and the Wisconsin Podiatric Medical Association to provide this education. 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.

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, 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.