



# News Release

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## **Medical Board of California's Revised *Guidelines for Prescribing Controlled Substances for Pain***

Sacramento – The Medical Board of California (Board) announces its release of its revised *Guidelines for Prescribing Controlled Substances for Pain* (Guidelines). These Guidelines were approved by the Board at its quarterly Board Meeting on October 24, 2014. The Board recognizes that the inappropriate prescribing of controlled substances, including opioids, is a consumer protection issue, and the Board takes this matter very seriously.

The Board is aware that some physicians do not appropriately prescribe controlled substances due to a lack of knowledge and available resources. The revised Guidelines will provide physicians with guidance, useful tools, and links to useful information as they prescribe controlled substances for pain. These resources will assist and educate physicians by helping them understand pain and the various treatment considerations for differing patient populations or scenarios. The Board hopes the revised Guidelines will help to improve the outcomes of patient care and will help to prevent overdose deaths and injury due to opioid use.

These Guidelines are not intended to mandate the standard of care, but to assist and guide physicians by educating them and providing resources to assist them as they prescribe controlled substances for pain.

The revised Guidelines are available on the Board's website at the following link:  
[www.mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Prescribing/Pain\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Prescribing/Pain_Guidelines.pdf)

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*The mission of the Medical Board of California is to protect health care consumers through proper licensing and regulation of physicians and surgeons and certain allied health care professions and through the vigorous, objective enforcement of the Medical Practice Act, and, to promote access to quality medical care through the Board's licensing and regulatory functions.*

*If you have a question or complaint about the health care you are receiving, the Board encourages you to visit its Website at [www.mbc.ca.gov](http://www.mbc.ca.gov) or call (800) 633-2322.*

*For up-to-date information on Board activities, please join our "Subscribers' List" at <http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Subscribers/>.*

## **Medical Board of California**