

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: March 27, 2013
 ATTENTION: Education Committee Members
 SUBJECT: Joint Forum to Promote Appropriate Prescribing and Dispensing
 STAFF CONTACT: Letitia Robinson, Research Program Specialist

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Education Committee should review the various ideas presented at the Joint Forum to Promote Appropriate Prescribing and Dispensing. Further, the Committee should discuss and make recommendations for the priority implementation of these ideas.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:

Prescription drug abuse and the resulting deaths are something the Board recognized as an issue that must be given the utmost priority. The Board wanted to provide education to its licensees and the public in an effort to prevent prescription drug abuse. To that end, the Board, in collaboration with the Pharmacy Board, held a “Joint Forum to Promote Appropriate Prescribing and Dispensing” for all interested parties on February 21-22, 2013.

The Forum focused on 1) the problem, including inappropriate prescribing, inappropriate security of drugs, etc; 2) the responsible parties, including prescribers, dispensers, patients, and regulators/law enforcement; and 3) the solutions, including education, enforcement, and necessary tools (CURES).

Both the Pharmacy and Medical Boards provided staff to ensure the Forum activities were sufficiently planned before, during and after the event. The Boards provided Continuing Medical Education (CME) to physicians and pharmacists who could earn up to four credit hours on the first day of the Forum and up to six credit hours on the second day. Certificates were mailed to all participants.

A link has been placed on the Board’s Web site under “Highlights”, “Licensees”, and “Consumers”. The link provides all the speakers presentations as well as video clips of each speaker. Getting this information placed on the Board’s Web site is a first step in endeavoring to educate physicians and the public on efforts to prevent prescription drug abuse.

Below is a breakdown on the number of Forum attendees by type:

	<u>Day 1</u>	<u>Day 2</u>
• Osteopathic Physician	3	2
• Pharmacist	115	112
• Physician	206	216
• Physician Assistant	1	2
• Registered Nurse	6	4
• Other Interested Parties	50	30
<i>Total Attendees</i>	<i>381</i>	<i>366</i>

The Forum was well received by most attendees. The Program Evaluation forms were completed by approximately 83% of the attendees on the first day and 88% of attendees on the second day. The Program Evaluation data indicates that about 87% of responders agreed or strongly agreed that Speaker presentations were effective and enhanced participants' knowledge base. The following are additional responses from the evaluations:

- I gained knowledge from this activity: *95% strongly agreed or agreed*
- I will apply what I learned in my practice: *88% strongly agreed or agreed; 11% were neutral; 1% disagreed*
- What I learned will change my practice: *71% strongly agreed or agreed; 26% were neutral; 3% strongly disagreed or disagreed*

In addition to providing feedback via the Program Evaluations, when solicited, many attendees voiced their comments and suggestions during the final segment of the Forum: “Expectations vs. Reality: What is the future? Developing operational and legal solutions”. The following recommendations were compiled from attendees, speakers, and staff feedback with regard to educational needs.

Educational Needs Based on Forum Recommendations

Prescribers

- Provide Tip Sheets on prescribing issues
- Develop/include Board Newsletter articles on prescribing issues
- Educate prescribers to not use a “default” prescription amount
- Promote subscription to CURES
- Provide samples of patient pain management contracts (links on Web site)
- Identify actions for prescribers to take if a prescription pad has been stolen
- Educate prescribers on communicating with dispensers

Dispensers

- Provide Tip Sheets on dispensing issues
- Develop/include Board Newsletter articles on dispensing issues
- Educate dispensers on how to work more closely with prescribers
- Promote subscription to CURES
- Identify actions for dispensers to take if presented with a fake prescription

Other Interested Parties

- Provide consumer Tip Sheets
- Partner with advocacy groups to educate the public
- Link to other Web sites with tips and information, such as, take back programs