

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: May 11, 2022
 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.

UPDATE:

Throughout the month of February, the pain management subject matter experts (SMEs) reviewed and provided input on individual sections of the existing guidelines identifying where revisions/updates were necessary. Staff updated those sections and distributed the revisions to the SMEs for review. An updated guidelines draft document was then assembled. On March 7, 2022, a meeting with Executive staff was held to review/discuss the draft document. The draft document was then referred to the SMEs for their feedback on the document as a whole to ensure there was continuity and consistency throughout. Their feedback has been integrated into the final draft document.

Concurrently, the CDC had been working on updating their 2016 guidelines and their draft document was released in mid-February. Staff analyzed the revised guidelines and found the main difference was that CDC removed recommendations related to dosage or prescribing limitations. Our drafted guidelines are consistent with this approach and reiterate that physicians should use their best clinical judgement in treating patients for pain.

The Board's draft document was also reviewed by the Board's Chief Medical Consultant to ensure that the updated guidelines will not adversely impact the Board's ability to take administrative action against physicians who are excessively and inappropriately prescribing opioids.

TASK FORCE:

On May 4, 2022, Executive staff met with the Task Force Committee members to discuss any suggested edits to the guidelines and obtain guidance on some of the proposed new segments being considered for inclusion in the guidelines. The Task Force members authorized the Executive staff to begin planning an Interested Parties meeting to obtain feedback and input from stakeholders.