

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: November 18, 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:

Following the Interested Parties Meeting held on July 14, 2022, executive staff met to review the feedback received and develop a strategy to address the written comments and concerns received. The draft guidelines were updated, and staff consulted with subject matter experts for guidance on the suggested edits and changes. An executive meeting with the Task Force was held on October 6, 2022, to review the updated guidelines and obtain guidance on several outstanding concerns raised by the public and physician participants.

As a result of the additional feedback received, edits to the draft guidelines were made to the Morphine Milligram Equivalent section to remove references to dosages that could be misinterpreted as prescribing limitations. The recommended timeframes to follow up with patients after an opioid trial has been initiated was modified, as was the timeframes recommended for ongoing patient monitoring and assessment to provide flexibility. Several sections were rewritten for clarity and to emphasize the Board's intent to encourage physicians to develop individualized patient-centered, medically appropriate treatment plans.

A second Interested Parties Meeting was held on November 15, 2022, to obtain written comment and public input on the revised guidelines. An executive meeting will be scheduled with the Task Force to review the comments received and discuss whether further updates or revisions are needed. It is anticipated that the draft will be finalized in early 2023.