

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: February 26, 2026
ATTENTION: Members, Medical Board of California
SUBJECT: Administrative Summary
STAFF CONTACT: Reji Varghese, Executive Director

REQUESTED ACTION:

This report is intended to provide the Members with an update on Joint Forum on Controlled Substances and Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Access. No action is needed at this time.

Forum Updates:

To improve collaboration and understanding around access to controlled substances, a joint forum was held on December 17, 2025. The Medical Board, along with California State Board of Pharmacy, Osteopathic Medical Board, Board of Registered Nursing, Dental Board, Physician Assistant Board, and other key agencies organized this event. Attendees participated in presentations, a panel discussion, and breakout sessions (see attached Forum agenda), with a key objective to identify how healthcare providers can better collaborate to advance patient care. The outcomes of these breakout sessions are now being reviewed to identify concrete actions that can be taken to improve collaboration moving forward.

The Breakout sessions attended by both in-person and virtual attendees were very productive. Discussions in those breakout sessions echoed key themes and trends like; Communication and Collaboration Gaps, Prescribing Practices and Regulatory Environment, Patient Access and Stigma, Systemic and Policy Deficiencies, etc. Participants identified specific challenges they face like E-prescribing, Pharmacy Thresholds, Drug Shortage and Insurance Coverages, Patient Education, etc.

In conclusion, the current landscape of pain treatment is characterized by a need for improved interdisciplinary communication, enhanced prescriber education, a stronger emphasis on patient-centered care, and systemic reforms to streamline access and reduce administrative burdens. Addressing these trends will be crucial for optimizing pain management strategies and improving patient outcomes.

PRESCRIPTIONS & PATIENTS

Addressing Challenges, Finding Opportunities

A Joint Forum on Controlled Substances and Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Access

LOCATION: California State University, Sacramento

DATE: December 17, 2025

AGENDA

- 8:00 Doors Open
- 8:30–9:00 Opening remarks
- 9:05–9:30 Legal requirements prescribers
Presenter: Edward Kim, Supervising Deputy Attorney General
- 9:35–10:05 The Role of Dispensers of Controlled Substances
Presenters: Nicole Trama & Kristina Jarvis, Deputy Attorneys General
- 10:05–10:15 Break
- 10:20–10:45 DEA legal requirements
Presenter: Brian Glaudel, Diversion Investigator, Drug Enforcement Administration
- 10:50–11:05 National Opioid Settlements
Presenter: David Jones, Supervising Deputy Attorney General
- 11:10–11:40 Patient Advocates: Three Issues Harming Chronic Pain Patients
Presenters: Patricia Irving, RN, MEd & Monty Goddard PE, MSCE
- 11:45–12:15 Distribution of Controlled Substances, Supply Chain Perspective
*Presenters: Sara Watson, Cardinal Health
Leah Lindahl, Healthcare Distribution Alliance*
- 12:15–1:45 Lunch Break
- 1:45–2:45 Panel discussion
*Moderator: Kimberly Kirchmeyer, Director,
California Department of Consumer Affairs*

*Panel: Seung Oh, PharmD.
Standiford Helm, MD,
Samantha Gambles Farr, RN, MSN, FNP-C, CCRN, RNFA
Monty Goddard, PE, MSCE*
- 3:00–4:00 Workgroup Sessions
- 4:00–4:15 Break
- 4:15–4:30 Next steps and closing remarks