



News Release

Monday, February 11, 2013

Contact: Jennifer Simoes
Medical Board of California
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Press Advisory

February 11, 2013

TO: City Desks and reporters assigned to medical and health issues

Members of the press are invited to attend the California Medical and Pharmacy Boards' Joint Forum to Promote Appropriate Prescribing and Dispensing - Preventing Prescription Drug Abuse on February 21 & 22 in San Francisco.

The event is designed to address the growing problem of prescription drug abuse, and will feature a variety of speakers, including:

- Michael Botticelli - Deputy Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy
- Joseph Rannazzisi, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration
- Pain and addiction specialists and pharmacists from throughout California
- Practicing physicians and pharmacists
- Law enforcement and prosecutors

The Medical and Pharmacy Boards are hosting the forum to educate doctors and pharmacists and to find solutions to prevent prescription drug abuse. "We need to promote better communication between the prescribers and dispensers, develop strategies to enforce current laws, and establish new tools when those efforts fail," said Stanley Weisser, R.Ph., president of the Pharmacy Board. "Prescription drug abuse is devastating to patients and their families, and prescribers and dispensers of prescription drugs, patients and their families all have important roles to play in solving this serious dilemma of insuring appropriate pain management, while curbing excess prescribing and use of prescription drugs," said Sharon Levine, M.D., president of the Medical Board.

The forum is an educational event for California doctors and pharmacists, and is free to attendees, although registration is required. There has been tremendous interest from both physicians and pharmacists, as within the first five days of opening registration, over 550 had signed-up to attend.

When: February 21, 2013: 1-5:30p.m.
February 22, 2013: 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.

Where: South San Francisco Conference Center
255 South Airport Boulevard
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Contact: Jennifer Simoes
916-263-2389

Members of the press are invited to attend, but are asked to call to reserve a space so that sufficient written materials will be available.

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 Web site at www.mbc.ca.gov or call (800) 633-2322.

For up-to-date information on Board activities, please join our "Subscribers' List" at www.mbc.ca.gov/subscribers.htm.

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