What You Need To Know When Prescribing Opioids And Other Controlled Substances

As you are aware, the issuance and use of opioids has increased tremendously over the past decade. Nevada is ranked fourth in the nation for opioid abuse. Opioid abuse is a precursor to the rising use of heroin in the State of Nevada. The Governor is taking this epidemic very seriously and recently held a Summit to open important dialog and to receive input from various organizations to combat the problem to include occupational licensing boards.

The Legislature has many various changes to the statutes and regulations with a focus on the Prescription Monitoring Program ("PMP"). The State of Nevada is the pioneer for being the first to initiate a Prescription Monitoring Program. The program was developed to collect information for those patients seeking controlled substances from various healthcare providers known as "drug shopping". The focus of the Task Force was to provide intervention to those patients who may have a substance abuse issue.

As with any data collection, the realization that this information may assist others became evident and over time the Prescription Monitoring Program expanded. Recent changes to statutes and regulations placed greater responsibility on healthcare providers when issuing opioids to their patients. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration opioids should be used when treating chronic pain. For acute pain, the healthcare provider is tasked with the responsibility for the issuance of the appropriate pain relievers.

The legislation that was enacted recently pertains to licensees accessing the Prescription Monitoring Program for those authorized to write prescriptions for controlled substances listed in schedule II, III, or IV. The licensee shall access the database of the Prescription Monitoring Program through the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy, at least once each 6 months to review the information concerning the practitioner that is listed in the database and notify the Board of Pharmacy if any such information is not correct and verify to the Board that he or she continues to have access to and has accessed the database as required.

In addition, for those licensees who are authorized to write prescriptions for controlled substances listed in schedule II, III, or IV, you are now obligated to obtain a PMP report before initiating a controlled substance prescription. The obligation arises where:

1. The prescription for a controlled substance listed is in schedule II, III, and IV, and
2. The patient is a new patient of the practitioner, or
3. The prescription is for more than 7 days and of part of a new course of treatment for the patient

For instruction on accessing your PMP report, please visit our website at www.dental.nv.gov
The practitioner is obligated to review the report. Although the statute does not require the practitioner to maintain a copy of the report, it is suggested that you note in the patient file the date the report was run and reviewed with your signature. The statute further provides penalties to be imposed against practitioners who do not comply with the new law.

Through the rulemaking process, the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners is seeking a regulation change to add a requirement for continuing education for those licensees who are authorized to write prescriptions for controlled substances listed in schedule II, III, or IV and dedicate at least one (1) hour annually to the abuse and misuse of controlled substances. The Board believes through education we can provide better prescription practices when issuing controlled substances.

If you believe you have a patient with a prescription drug abuse problem, the Board has information and other agency resources available on our website. You may access information by visiting www.dental.nv.gov.

Patients who submit a request for a copy of their dental records are entitled to a complete copy of the record. You may not deny a patient a copy of their records if they have a remaining balance on account. You have ten (10) working days to provide the patient a copy of the record to ensure compliance.

If you receive a claim or complaint of malpractice, you are required to notify the Board in writing within thirty (30) days from receipt of the claim or complaint of malpractice.

You are required within thirty (30) days from the occurrence to update the Board in writing or through our online portal of any address changes to include, office addresses, home address and mailing address. Failure to update your address changes within thirty (30) days shall result in a fine of $50.00.

Opening or purchasing an existing dental practice. Under NAC 631.1785, you are required within thirty (30) days to request an Initial Infection Control Inspection. The request form is available on the Board’s website at www.dental.nv.gov. The inspection fee is $250.00.

Make sure to review your CPR card expiration dates.

Make sure you have your certificates of licensure displayed at all locations where you are rendering dental services.

Make sure if you hold a valid permit to issue controlled substances that you are performing the self query to the Prescription Monitoring Program as required by both the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy and the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners.

BOARD ACTIONS FROM APRIL 2016–SEPTEMBER 2016

Lyle Scott Brooksby, DDS Lic. S5-09
Jennifer S Cha, DMD Lic. S4-15
Barry H Frank, DDS Lic. S2-30
Suzan S Fu, DDS Lic. 3732
Thomas R Gonzales, DDS Lic. 2427
Gregg C Hendrickson, DDS Lic. 2681
Raymond N Kim, DDS Lic. 3336
William J Maricondia, DDS Lic. 4092
Frank D Nguyen, DDS Lic. 3365
Felipe M Paleracio, DDS Lic. 4685
RULEMAKING UPDATES

The Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners will be holding the first Public Workshop, Request for Comments and Consideration of Recommendations from the Anesthesia Resource Group for proposed regulation changes and/or amendments pertaining to Nevada Administrative Code Chapter 631. The general topics include the regulations pertaining to the administration of moderate sedation, pediatric moderate sedation, deep sedation and general anesthesia as set forth in NAC 631.003, NAC 631.004, NAC 631.029 and NAC 631.2211-NAC 631.2256.

The Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners is going through the rulemaking process for the administration of botulinum toxins, dermal fillers and other facial injectable by dentists and dental hygienists. These proposed regulations have not been adopted. A dental hygienist may not administer these agents until the regulation has gone through the entire rule making process and has been added as a delegable duty.

IN MEMORY OF

Lynn A Brosy, DDS
Dayton J McDonald, DDS
Suzanne R Willden, RDH

NEW AND REAPPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

Robert M Sanders, DMD
Timothy T Pinther, DDS –President, Reappointed

The Board welcomes new and reappointed members and looks forward to working together to ensure that qualified professionals are licensed to practice dentistry and dental hygiene and further ensure that those who violate the laws regulating the dental and dental hygiene professions are sanctioned appropriately.

Thank you

James G Kinard, DDS

The Board thanks you for your years of dedication and service to your profession and to the citizens of the State of Nevada.