

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

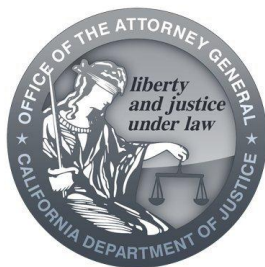
GUIDELINES FOR COMBATING PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE AND FRAUD



BUREAU OF NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT (BNE)

CURES PROGRAM BUREAU OF NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Intervention Tips

- Early identification of patients at risk to abuse drugs
- Identify prescription abuse when it exist.
Don't wait.
- Help patients recognize the problem.
- Set recovery goals.
- Seek appropriate treatment.

Guidelines for Combating Prescription Drug Abuse and Fraud

The following guidelines may assist you in safely and effectively combating prescription drug abuse/fraud:

- Remember that prescription drugs are historically over prescribed to illegitimate patients and under prescribed to legitimate patients. Do not hesitate to confront a patient with your concerns or "Just Say No."
- Conduct thorough patient examinations, interviews/assessments, and document your findings.
- Use the Medical Board of CA standard of care in managing pain patients.
- Store controlled substance prescription pads in a secure (locked) location. Remember, prescription pads are like money in the bank. Be aware that a stolen prescription pad equates to a drug of choice for a drug seeker and money for a dealer.
- Do not prescribe controlled substances to family/friends.
- Document all controlled substances prescribed, administered or dispensed.
- Photocopy all controlled substance prescriptions and place a copy in the patient file.
- Obtain an internet **Patient Activity Report (PAR)** from the CURES program or obtain the names, phone numbers, and office phone numbers of other physicians treating or prescribing controlled substances to your patient.
- Develop a patient Pain Agreement.
- Develop a flow chart indicating: expected time of symptom relief/actual time of symptom relief.
- Prescribe only the minimum quantity necessary to treat a suspicious patient until he/she can schedule an office visit.
- When prescribing controlled substances, check appropriate boxes indicating refill and quantity amounts. Consider manually writing out the prescribing amounts.
- Contact your local police department if you suspect an individual is seeing multiple doctors, "doctor shopping," and/or receiving excessive amounts of controlled substances.

Potential Indicators of Prescription Drug Abuse/Fraud

- ❑ Patients hesitant or unclear about pertinent personal information: Home address, Phone number, Date of birth, Social security number, Unable to provide government photo ID.
- ❑ Patient requesting specific controlled substances. Repeatedly running out of medication early.
- ❑ Notice rapid request for increases in controlled substances.
- ❑ After-hour, holiday or weekend requests for controlled substances.
- ❑ Unscheduled refills being requested.
- ❑ Unwillingness to try non-opioid treatments.
- ❑ On-going use after medical problem has been resolved.
- ❑ Engaging in doctor shopping activity.
- ❑ Moving from one primary care physician to another frequently.
- ❑ Evidence of withdrawal symptoms visible at appointments.
- ❑ Forging prescriptions from nonmedical or multiple medical sources.

Report theft or loss of prescription pads to California Security Prescription Program:

securityprinter@doj.ca.gov

The California Department of Justice Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) may be notified in the event of theft / loss of controlled substance / prescription & diversion control. The physician/provider may direct you to complete:

Form 1178

This form will aid the BNE to fully investigate the incident. This form may also be used by a physician to report the theft of prescription pads or any suspicious activity. **After login, the provider may confidentially report any suspicious activity directly on the BNE website.** This form is available in Pain Medicine, and it can also be downloaded from the BNE website at: http://ag.ca.gov/bne/pdfs/BNE_1178.pdf

Please complete **Form 1178** and send it to:

CURES
P.O. Box 161089
Sacramento, California 95816
Phone: (916) 319-9062
Fax: (916) 319-9448

Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement (BNE)

NOTE: You must call the regional office ahead of time and make an appointment prior to having your documents validated by BNE personnel.

Redding

3688 Avtech Parkway
Redding, CA 96002
Phone: (530) 224-4750
Fax: (530) 224-4310

Sacramento

1102 Q Street, 6th floor
Sacramento, CA 95811
Phone: (916) 319-9274
Fax: (916) 319-9448

Sacramento

3046 Prospect Park Drive,
Suite 1
Rancho Cordova, CA
95670
Phone: (916) 464-2030
Fax: (916) 464-2058

Fresno

1735 "E" Street
Fresno, CA 93706
Phone: (559) 457-5000
Fax: (559) 445-5418

San Francisco

2720 Taylor Street,
Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94133
Phone: (415) 351-3374
Fax: (415) 929-2102

San Jose

2025 Gateway Place,
Suite 474
San Jose, CA 95110
Phone: (408) 452-7360
Fax: (408) 452-7285

Los Angeles

5700 South Eastern Ave.
Commerce, CA 90040
Phone: (323) 869-6800
Fax: (323) 838-2800
SSAC/SAC
Fax: (323) 838-2801

Riverside

829 Marlborough Ave
Riverside, CA 92507
Phone: (951) 782-4313
Fax: (951) 782-4383

San Diego

9425 Chesapeake Drive
San Diego, CA 92123-1302
Phone: (858) 268-5300
Fax: (858) 268-5353

Orange

874 Town & Country Road,
Suite 110
Orange, CA 92868
Phone: (714) 558-4183
Fax: (714) 558-4782

We are here to help, so please call if you have any questions regarding diversion control, identity theft, or any aberrant drug seeking behavior.