



State Medical Board of

**Ohio**

# Med Bd eNews

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Monthly electronic newsletter from the State Medical Board of Ohio  
September 2016

## **New Board Member Appointment**

Governor John R. Kasich recently appointed Dr. Ronan M. Factora, MD to the Medical Board. Dr. Factora is on staff at the Center for Geriatric Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Medicine Institute, as well as Program Director for the Geriatric Medicine Fellowship and Co-Director of the Aging Brain Clinic. He has been appointed for a term that began on August 12 and will end on March 18, 2019. He fills a vacant seat on the Board and resides in North Royalton.

## **Medical Marijuana Control Program Statement**

Please [click here to read the Medical Board's statement on affirmative defense.](#)

## **Medical Marijuana Physician Survey**

The State Medical Board of Ohio and its partnering state organizations, the Department of Commerce and Pharmacy Board, have been tasked with writing the rules and specifics to implement Ohio's Medical Marijuana Control Program. As we research the best ways to establish the operation of the program, we are seeking your input. If you have not done so already, please take a moment to complete this eight-question survey about recommending medical marijuana in Ohio. The survey will close on September 25. Answers will remain anonymous. [Click here for the survey: Medical Marijuana Control Program Physician Questions.](#)

## **New Rules**

The State Medical Board of Ohio has adopted the following rules, which are effective September 30, 2016. (The rule number is a hyperlink to the rule.)

### **Medical Board Hearing Rules**

[4731-13-06](#) Continuance of hearing.

[4731-13-23](#) Witnesses.

## **OARRS Review**

Ohio law requires all prescribers of opioid analgesics or benzodiazepines to register and use Ohio's Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS). Guidelines for the Management of Acute Pain Outside of Emergency Departments were also established this past January. Now that the law and guidance are in place, the Board will begin to use OARRS data to identify those prescribers who have failed to register for OARRS or who demonstrate a pattern of failure to check patients in OARRS. If we have received OARRS data indicating you may not be in compliance with the law, the Board will be contacting you in the next two weeks.

## **Bureau of Workers' Compensation New Opioid-Prescribing Rule**

October 1 is the implementation date for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation's (BWC) new opioid-prescribing rule. It applies to all BWC-certified prescribing physicians. This rule will help prevent opioid dependence for Ohio's injured workers through its three primary goals that:

- Encourage prescribers to incorporate best clinical practices when prescribing opioids for treating Ohio's injured workers;
- Establish provisions and criteria for treating opioid dependence that arises secondary to treatment with opioid medications covered by BWC;
- Provide and strengthen BWC's peer review processes for opioid prescribing that addresses serious noncompliance with best practices.

[Read more about BWC's rule here.](#)

## **Pennsylvania Prescription Monitoring Program Launched**

If you are a prescriber who practices primarily in an Ohio county that adjoins another state, Ohio law requires you to request the adjoining state's prescription drug information, which can be easily accessed through OARRS.

Now that Pennsylvania's prescription monitoring program is operational, those practicing in Ashtabula, Trumbull, Mahoning and Columbiana counties must request a report from that program.

## **GCOAT Video Available**

This summer the State Medical Board of Ohio teamed up with the Governor's Cabinet Opioid Action Team (GCOAT) to produce an educational module on the new Acute Prescribing Guidelines. Personalized links were sent out to all physician email addresses in the Board's database, but the video is now available through a general link for those who did not receive the original emails or wish to share the information with colleagues. The module is available [here](#).

## **MT Renewal Deadline Reminder**

This is a reminder that Massage Therapists in the H-K renewal group have an October 1 license renewal deadline. If you have not renewed on or before October 1st you will be subject to a late fee and your license will become inactive. For more details on registering on eLicense and renewal, MTs should please click [here](#).