

Notes From Your Licensing Board

SAFE PRESCRIBING

As of January 1, 2003, the use of special prescription pads has been required when Schedule II drugs are being prescribed, or a waiver must be in place to use a different product. This new prescribing law along with a study of drug deaths completed by the Department of Attorney General and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has focused attention on the growing problem with drug misuse in the state. An excerpted version of the executive report from this study accompanies this newsletter, with their permission. The newsletter will also review the features needed on the secure prescriptions, and requirements necessary in completing the prescription.

It is important that Maine citizens continue to receive competent and compassionate treatment of pain. It has become increasingly challenging for physicians to respond to these patients' needs while being mindful of the small number of citizens that can misuse and divert their prescription medications and actually deceive physicians to this end. There are educational sessions, pain management guidelines, and sample pain management contracts available from the Board to help meet this challenge.

FEATURES of SECURE PADS

- (1) background pantograph that reads "void" when copied
- (2) watermark visible when viewed at 45 degree angle
- (3) tamperproof to erasures by abrasion or chemicals
- (4) heat sensitive ink symbol (disappears with rubbing)
- (5) (5) 4 1/4" by 5 1/2" size
- (6) name, address, phone number, DEA number of prescriber written, pre-printed, or stamped

COMPLETION of the PRESCRIPTION

- (1) circle or mark name of prescriber on a multi-name pad
- (2) write out numbers, as well as indicating numerically
- (3) one drug per one blank
- (4) emergency phone order needs written script within 7 days

Committee on Physician Health
Confidential professional help for substance abuse is available by contacting Dr. David J. Simmons at 622-3374 or 623-9266.

Board of Licensure in Medicine
 2002 Year End Report to Legislature

Complaints carried forward from 2001	53
Complaints filed in 2002	<u>146</u>
Total	199
Complaints dismissed in 2002	116
Complaints resulting in discipline 2002	<u>21</u>
Total	<u>137</u>
Complaints carried forward to 2003	62
Disciplinary actions tabulated by the Federation of State Medical Boards	17
Physician Assistant disciplines	<u>5</u>
Total disciplinary actions	22

- Of 146 complaints received
- 1 = Mental or Physical Impairment
 - 7 = Fraud & Deceit in either License Application or Practice and Billing
 - 52 = Incompetence
 - 86 = Unprofessional Conduct / of these:
 - 2= Inappropriate Sexual Contact
 - 55= Communication
 - 29= Other
- 22 Disciplines taken in 2002
- 1 = Unprofessional Conduct
 - 1 = Incompetence
 - 3 = Inappropriate Sexual Contact
 - 15 = Substance Abuse Issues
 - 2= Prescription Practices