

EXHIBIT D-4

TO: The House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
The Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor

FROM: Donna Cobb, Executive Director, Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners

DATE: June 26, 2018

RE: Prescribing of Opioid Drugs

On June 13, 2018, the House and Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committees requested an update regarding the over prescribing of opioid drugs. The Dental Board respectfully submits this report in response to the request.

According to Denise Robertson, the PDMP sends out “report cards” quarterly to the prescribers. This started in April. It compares their prescribing to that of their peers (dentists to dentists). As stated below, the boards will be notified sometime next year accordingly.

Per Act 820 of 2017, ADH Director will work with stakeholders to develop prescribing criteria that will help to inform determinations of misuse or abuse from information in the Prescriber Comparison Reports. Per the law, if after a year of Prescriber Comparison reports, the information indicates misuse or abuse, ADH will alert the appropriate licensing board. To remain in-line with other activity in the state, ADH is waiting to set criteria until it can be matched to pending AR Medical Board rule changes on excessive prescribing.

Relevant AR PDMP data as of May 2018:

License Type	Number Registered with AR PDMP	Average Number of PDMP Queries per Month	Number that Received a Prescriber Comparison Report**
Dentist	1,027	7,854	685

** Arkansas dentists who wrote at least one opioid prescription and were registered with the AR PDMP during the six-month reporting period.

The Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners does not receive “report cards” but has the authority to subpoena the PCMP for Arkansas licensed dentists’ prescribing activity for investigative purposes. This has been a useful tool and has resulted in disciplinary action.

In May the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners held a Public Hearing and passed the following:

ARTICLE XX

PRESCRIBING

1. Pursuant to Act 820 of 2017, a prescriber who prescribes Schedule drugs shall be required by the Board to register with the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and access patient information before writing a prescription for an opioid.
2. A practitioner who fails to access the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program as required is subject to disciplinary action by the Board.
3. PRESCRIBER REQUIREMENTS:
 - a. It is incumbent of dentist to prescribe sufficient but minimal opiate medications. Any prescription for a Scheduled II or III opiate shall not exceed the total maximum manufacturer's recommended daily dose for a total of 7 days administration (7 time the MRDD).
 - b. Patient record must be documented for need of any re-dosing.
 - c. Dentist shall check the information in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program when prescribing:
 - i. An opioid from Schedule II or III for every time prescribing the medication to a patient; and
 - ii. A benzodiazepine medication for the first time prescribing the medication to a patient
 - d. Within the first two (2) years of being granted a license in the state, a prescriber shall obtain a minimum of three (3) hours of prescribing education approved by the board under this section shall include:
 - i. Options for online and in person programs; and
 - ii. Information on prescribing rules, regulations, and laws that apply to individuals who are licensed in Arkansas.
 - iii. Information and instructions on prescribing controlled substances, records keeping and maintain safe and professional boundaries.