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## Ortho News This Week

### **CORRECTION UPDATE CURES 2.0 — Mandatory as of October 2, 2018**



Medical Board of California  
Department of Justice

**This notice applies to all controlled substances, not just prescriptions for controlled substances. See corrected article below.**

- All health care providers with a DEA license authorized to prescribe Schedule II, III, or IV drugs must be registered with CURES 1 or 2.0 whether or not they prescribe controlled substances.
- As of October 2, 2018, when a health care provider prescribes a controlled substance for the **first time**, they are required to check CURES before prescribing the narcotic medication – no more than 24 hours before writing the prescription. A physician's delegate can request the patient information be sent to the physician's dashboard, but the physician has the obligation to check the information.
- The requirement is per physician – not per patient. Meaning if that a physician is covering for another physician and there is a need to prescribe a controlled substance, the covering physician is required to check CURES if this is the first time that they are prescribing the controlled substance for the patient.
- Exception for post-surgical medications – surgeon is not required to check CURES if they prescribe no more than a 5-day supply of a controlled substance for a post-surgical patient.
- The law does not contain any specific documentation requirement, but the Medical Board strongly encourages physicians to document that they checked CURES in the patient record. You can also include the CURES report in the patient's record as documentation that you checked the system before prescribing.
- Patients can also be provided with a copy of the CURES report.
- A physician can only search the past 12 months of a patient's prescription history.
- Prescribers will see a "Patient Safety Alert" if the patient
  - Currently prescribed more than 90 morphine milligram equivalency per day
  - Have obtained prescriptions from 6 or more prescribers or 6 or more pharmacies during last 6 months
  - Currently prescribed more than 40 milligrams of methadone daily
  - Currently prescribed opioids more than 90 consecutive days
  - Prescribed both benzodiazepines and opioids
- There is an exemption if there are technical difficulties in checking the CURES database if unavailable at the time the health care provider tried to access the database. It would be good to document this unavailability in the patient's record.
- Dispensers – typically the pharmacist – is required to report the controlled substance prescription to CURES with 7 days of dispensing the medication.

- The Medical Board of California can electronically monitor/audit whether a physician is checking the CURES database.

For additional information, consult the DOJ and MBC PowerPoint presentations:

[CURES: Preparing for the New Duty-to-Consult Requirement](#)

[Mandatory Use of CURES](#)



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