

Quick Tips for the Dental Office



Prescribing and Maintaining Drugs

State Board of Dentistry Regulations

- Drug storage areas must be clean and orderly.
- Drug storage areas must be dry, well ventilated and well lit.
- Must ensure adequate dust, humidity and temperature controls.
- Drug storage areas should contain only drugs and related supplies and equipment necessary for the administration and dispensing of drugs to the dentist's own patients.
- Drugs should be adequately labeled and kept in the manufacturer's original container showing the lot number and expiration date, until the drug is administered or dispensed.
- Drugs should be free from adulteration. Appropriate procedures must be in place to minimize the chances of cross contamination.
- Outdated or deteriorated drugs should be segregated in the storage area until their return to the manufacturer or appropriate disposal. Dentists must maintain records reflecting the final disposition of these drugs.
- Controlled substances must be stored in a substantially constructed, locked container. Dentists must be present to supervise whenever the locked container is opened to clean, replenish supplies or perform other necessary tasks.
- Dentists must provide for the safe, secure and sanitary disposal of drug-containing refuse.
- Dentists must be cognizant and compliant with other state and federal laws regarding the storage of drugs.

Pennsylvania Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

In an effort to empower health care professionals to identify patients struggling with addiction as soon as possible, the state launched a new *Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)*. Registration for the PA PDMP opened in August 2016. All schedule II – V prescriptions dispensed to outpatients are collected by the PA PDMP within 72 hours of having been filled. By using the PA PDMP system, dentists and other providers will play a key role in reducing opioid abuse and overdoses.

Prescribers may query the system for each patient when the patient is prescribed a controlled substance for the first time. Providers may also search the system if they have reason to believe that a patient may be abusing or diverting drugs. To make consistent use of the PA PDMP system more practicable, prescribers can grant access to any delegates under their employment or supervision to query the system on their behalf. Log on to www.health.pa.gov for more information.

Continuing Education Resources

Act 124 of 2016

Pennsylvania enacted a new law requiring all licensees considered to be “*prescribers*” or “*dispensers*” of controlled substances to complete at least two hours of board-approved continuing education credits in pain management or identification of addiction or the practices of prescribing or dispensing of opioids, as a condition of renewal every two years.

There are two exemptions for licensees:

- Licensees who are exempt from the federal Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) requirements for a registration number.
- Licensees who do not use the registration number of another person or entity, as permitted by law, to prescribe controlled substances in any manner.

The continuing education (CE) requirement does apply to all licensees who have a current DEA registration or use another DEA number (as permitted by law) to prescribe controlled substances. The CE requirement is in effect with the 2019-2020 renewal period.

PDA offers CE courses that meet the state's requirements. Log on to the Events section of PDA's website at www.padental.org

ADA offers a number of free courses for safe and effective opioid prescribing.
<http://www.ada.org/en/advocacy/advocacy-issues/prescription-drug-abuse>

PDA collaborated with the Pennsylvania Medical Society and other stakeholders to offer an online continuing education program, a four-part series entitled *Addressing PA's Opioid Crisis: What the Health care Team Needs to Know*.

<https://www.pamedsoc.org/learn-lead/topics/medications-pain-management-opioids/OpioidsCrisisCME>

Guidelines for Dental Providers

PDA encourages members to use dental professional guidelines when prescribing controlled substances to patients. These guidelines are intended to be used as a resource and not a substitute for dentists using their best clinical judgment when determining the course of treatment for patients.



Pennsylvania Guidelines on the Use of Opioids in Dental Practices

In 2014, PDA joined the Department of Drug and Alcohol Program's (DDAP) Safe and Effective Prescribing Practices and Pain Management task force. DDAP, in collaboration with the Departments of Human Services and Health, the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association, the health care provider community and other stakeholders, created this task force in an effort to reduce prescription drug abuse and overdoses in Pennsylvania.

The task force reviewed prescribing practices and drafting guidelines for health care providers who treat chronic non-cancer pain. The dental prescribing guidelines address the use of opioids for the treatment of acute dental pain, and are intended to help health care providers improve patient outcomes when providing dental treatment, including avoiding potential adverse outcomes associated with the use of opioids to treat pain.

https://www.pamedsoc.org/PAMED_Downloads/opioid_dental_prescribing_guidelines3_13_15.pdf?utm_source=PDF&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=DentalGuidelines



ADA Practical Guide to Substance Use Disorders and Safe Prescribing

The *ADA Substance Use Disorders and Safe Prescribing* book helps dentists identify opioid abuse and treat patients with substance use disorders or drug addiction.

<http://ebusiness.ada.org/productcatalog/product.aspx?ID=8349>

CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain - United States, 2016

This guideline provides recommendations for primary care clinicians who are prescribing opioids for chronic pain outside of active cancer treatment, palliative care, and end-of-life care.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6501e1.htm>