

Strategic Board Discussion and Action Prescription Drug Abuse

The Board approved the following:

1. That CMS as a high priority coordinate and work proactively with Governor Hickenlooper, his staff, appropriate state agencies and stakeholders on effective strategies to reduce prescription drug abuse in Colorado.
2. That the Committee on Workers Compensation:
 - a. Lead the CMS effort on Prescription Drug Abuse, its work with state officials and report to the board throughout on these efforts.
 - b. Utilize expert physician advisers to assist in the committee's work.
 - c. Review and recommend changes to current CMS policies on prescription drug abuse, and make other recommendations to the board of directors as appropriate.
3. That CMS Reaffirm existing CMS policy 145.999, Prevention and Diversion of Prescription Drugs.

Background: The abuse of prescription drugs is the fastest growing drug problem in the United States and is the most common type of drug abuse after marijuana use among teens between the ages of 12 and 17. To combat the growing problem, the National Governors Association (NGA) is hosting a year-long project led by Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper.

The Prescription Drug Abuse Reduction Policy Academy is a year-long exercise in strategic planning aimed at reducing prescription drug abuse. In addition to Alabama and Colorado, five states – Arkansas, Kentucky, New Mexico, Oregon and Virginia – will develop and implement comprehensive and coordinated strategies that take advantage of all available tools and resources to address this growing problem.

NGA staff will work with teams of senior-level policymakers including governors' health and criminal justice advisors, state health officials, attorneys general, state chief information officers, legislators, physicians and allied health professional groups to examine a variety of critical issues.¹

Through the NGA Policy Academy, the state of Colorado proposes to create a state strategic plan to increase prevention efforts to reduce the non-medical use of prescription drugs, increase provider participation and use of Colorado's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, and increase safe drug disposal opportunities across our state.

Governor Hickenlooper will bring representatives of state agencies and others who are currently working on these issues to the table to share current strategies, goals and

outcomes, establish stronger ties between the partners, and create a comprehensive state strategy. They fully intend to work collaboratively with community leaders and partners, develop metrics to measure progress and success of efforts, and ensure financial sustainability of programs. They also intend to leverage the Governor's role to increase public awareness of this issue.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will soon (February or early March) be hosting a meeting of round table discussions on the key prescription drug abuse issues in preparation for a statewide stakeholder meeting to occur in the spring. There will be one round table discussion group for each of the following subjects:

1. Drug Disposal;
2. Provider Education;
3. Public Awareness;
4. Prescription Drug Monitoring Program; and
5. Epidemiology/Data.

The next step for the state is to host all roundtables on the same day, at the same venue, with a facilitator and note taker for each table. They will serve lunch and hold networking with all of the participants together and then separating into discussion groups for the remainder of the afternoon.

1. Prescription Drug Abuse Project. 2012. National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. 27 December 2012. <<http://www.nga.org/cms/Rx>>

Current CMS Policies: Drug Abuse: 145.999

Prevention of Abuse and Diversion of Prescription Drugs

The Colorado Medical Society (CMS) supports:

- The Colorado Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force and supports its charge to prevent the diversion of abused prescription drugs from individual practitioners, pharmacies, hospitals and clinics through the provision of a statewide resource for the problem identification and program development.
- Efforts to develop a data collection system which would collect, analyze and disseminate qualitative and quantitative data on controlled substances.
- The Colorado Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force activities in developing and implementing comprehensive professional standards for prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances.
- Efforts to implement comprehensive professional and consumer education programs designed to prevent and remediate prescription drug abuse.
- Improved coordination and communication among regulatory and enforcement agencies, practitioners and professional associations to prevent and correct prescription drug abuse.

The Colorado Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force is a group of stakeholders who advise the direction of and services provided by the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Program, administered by Peer Assistance Services, Inc. This program is funded by the Colorado Division of Behavioral Health from federal Block Grant monies.