



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

January 9, 2017

Ms. Patricia McSorley
Executive Director
Arizona Medical Board
9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Dear Ms. McSorley:

I write to request the Arizona Medical Board's engagement in the fight against opioid use in our state. Arizona has the ninth highest rate of opioid deaths in the country. In 2015, 401 Arizonans died from an overdose of prescription opioids.

In response, last year Arizona enacted legislation to deter the practice of "doctor shopping," and to allow pharmacists to dispense Naloxone without a prescription to an individual at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose or to a family member or community member in a position to assist that individual.

Last October, I signed an Executive Order limiting the initial fill of prescription opioids to an initial fill of no more than seven days for those on the state employee health insurance plans and AHCCCS.

A national survey of physicians and patients conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found that less than 20 percent of primary care physicians considered themselves "very prepared to identify alcohol or drug dependence," compared with more than 80 percent who feel "very comfortable diagnosing hypertension and diabetes." The survey also found that more than 40 percent of patients stated that their physician missed the diagnosis of a substance use disorder.

Therefore, I am calling on the Board to require that one of the forty Continuing Medical Education hours that are biennially required to renew an Arizona medical license be in the area of addiction or SAMHSA-supported opioid prescribing. A critical component to fighting this opioid epidemic is ensuring our state's doctors have the training and expertise necessary to identify and treat addiction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas A. Ducey".

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

January 9, 2017

Ms. Jenna Jones
Executive Director
Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners
9535 E. Doubletree Ranch Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Dear Ms. Jones:

I write to request the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners' engagement in the fight against opioid use in our state. Arizona has the ninth highest rate of opioid deaths in the country. In 2015, 401 Arizonans died from an overdose of prescription opioids.

In response, last year Arizona enacted legislation to deter the practice of "doctor shopping," and to allow pharmacists to dispense Naloxone without a prescription to an individual at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose or to a family member or community member in a position to assist that individual.

Last October, I signed an Executive Order limiting the initial fill of prescription opioids to an initial fill of no more than seven days for those on the state employee health insurance plans and AHCCCS.

A national survey of physicians and patients conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University found that less than 20 percent of primary care physicians considered themselves "very prepared to identify alcohol or drug dependence," compared with more than 80 percent who feel "very comfortable diagnosing hypertension and diabetes." The survey also found that more than 40 percent of patients stated that their physician missed the diagnosis of a substance use disorder.

Therefore, I am calling on the Board to require that one of the forty Continuing Medical Education hours that are biennially required to renew an Arizona osteopathic license be in the area of addiction or SAMHSA-supported opioid prescribing. A critical component to fighting this opioid epidemic is ensuring our state's doctors have the training and expertise necessary to identify and treat addiction.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona