

# THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA PRESCRIPTION REVIEW PROGRAM

A PROACTIVE APPROACH AT  
COMBATING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

## A NATIONAL EMERGENCY

On October 26, 2017, the opioid epidemic was declared a national emergency.

From 1999-2019, nearly 500,000 people died from an opioid overdose.

In response, the Medical Board of California (MBC) created the Prescription Review Program in alignment with the Board's mission of consumer protection.

TOGETHER, WE CAN SAVE LIVES

## OVERVIEW

The Prescription Review Program is MBC's proactive approach to investigate California opioid deaths.

MBC obtains and reviews publicly available death certificates for signs of inappropriate prescribing of opioids.

MBC understands that many patient deaths related to opioid use do not involve a physician who deviated from the standard of care or violated the Medical Practice Act.



## CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE UTILIZATION REVIEW AND EVALUATION SYSTEM (CURES)

Using CURES, California's prescription drug monitoring program, MBC conducts a thorough investigation of the deceased's prescription history for signs of inappropriate prescribing.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

Through its enforcement process, MBC obtains patient medical records to investigate opioid deaths.

First initiated in 2018, MBC continues improving the Prescription Review Program making it more thorough and robust after receiving stakeholder feedback following its initial launch.

Learn more about the Prescription Review Program in Episode 1 of MBC's podcast, the Medical Board Chat.

## PRESCRIPTION REVIEW PROGRAM STATS TO DATE

AS OF APRIL 2022

- DEATHS REVIEWED: 6,935
- CASES INITIATED: 578
- PHYSICIANS PLACED ON PROBATION: 9
- PUBLIC REPRIMANDS: 25
- LICENSE SURRENDERS: 12
- CASES CLOSED: 491
- CASES CURRENTLY IN REVIEW: 37

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