



National Association of State
Controlled Substances Authorities



NASCSA NEWS

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FDA Issues Final Rule on Buprenorphine Treatment

On December 6, 2012 The Food and Drug Administration has issued its [final rule](#) amending the federal opioid treatment program regulations by modifying the dispensing requirements for buprenorphine and buprenorphine combination products approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for opioid dependence and used in federally certified and registered opioid treatment programs.

In particular, the rule would allow opioid treatment programs more flexibility in dispensing take-home supplies of buprenorphine-removing restrictions on the time a patient needs to be in treatment in order to receive take-home supplies-after the assessment and documentation of a patient's responsibility and stability to receive opioid addiction treatment medication. Opioid treatment programs that use these products in the treatment of opioid dependence will continue to adhere to all other federal treatment standards

Greetings! It was an honor to be elected as President of NASCSA at the 2012 conference. Based on conference evaluations, this year's conference was among our best. The weather was beautiful, the hotel was a hit and the program was a success. A huge thank you to our [sponsors](#) who ensured that this year's conference was so well received and allowed us to continue to offer travel scholarships to six individuals from member states to attend the annual conference. Believe it or not the Program Committee has already held its first meeting as we begin to plan for the 2013 conference in beautiful Kansas City, Missouri. If you are interested in serving as a speaker or know of a speaker/topic we should consider, please contact me or a member of the Program Committee. We have many exciting things planned for the coming year and I look forward to sharing them with you.

On behalf of the Officers and members of the Executive Committee I would like to wish each and every one of you a happy and safe holiday season.

Mark Keeley, President, NASCSA

Record Attendance at 2012 Annual Conference

The 28th annual conference took place in October in Scottsdale, Arizona at the Hotel Valley Ho setting an attendance record of over 160 attendees from over 33 states as well as industry representatives. In an effort to "go green" attendees provided conference evaluations and feedback electronically and preliminary results are very positive. The 2013 Program Committee has already held several meetings to begin working on this year's program, to take place at that the [Westin Crown Plaza](#) in Kansas City, Missouri October 22-25, 2013. Please note that the Alliance of States With Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs will hold its annual conference in conjunction with NASCSA's annual conference. Please check NASCSA's website for the 2013 conference periodically for the latest updates.

Conference Highlights

Highlights of the 2012 conference include the following:

Election of Officers:

- Mark Keeley (OH) - President
- Ralph Orr (VA) - Vice President
- Dean Wright (AZ) - Secretary/Treasurer
- Ronald Klein (VT) - Executive Committee
- Brian Howes (AK) - Executive Committee
- Peg Clifford (NH) - Executive Committee
- Christina Morris (KS) - Executive Committee
- Danna Droz (OH), past President, will serve as Chair

established for methadone.

ONDCP Issues Alert on Canadian Opioids

The White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy has issued an alert to law enforcement and border patrol agents warning them to expect an upsurge of prescription pain-mediations transported from Canada for recreational use. Canada recently approved cheap, generic versions of two highly addictive opioids, Opana (oxymorphone) and OxyContin (oxycodone). The ONDCP said oxycodone from Canada could hit the market as early as January. Purdue Pharma's patent on OxyContin expires in April, and Endo Health Solutions' Opana will lose patent protection on Jan. 1, unless the FDA intervenes.

NAMSDL Releases Report on Synthetic Drugs

The National Association of Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL) has just released an updated summary of bills and proposed legislation related to synthetic drugs. All of the associated documents are posted [here](#).

FDA Staff: Zogenix Painkiller Has Abuse Risks

A painkiller developed by Zogenix Inc. could possibly be abused more than currently available hydrocodone combination products, according to drug reviewers. Zogenix's painkiller Zohydro is a single-entity product containing hydrocodone, and the reviewers stated the expected higher levels of abuse with Zohydro were based on what has been observed for oxycodone products, according to briefing documents by [FDA](#).

'Synthetic Pot'

of the Executive Committee.

Presentations:

Presentations, conference highlights and a photo gallery may be found [here](#).

Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolutions can be found on NASCSA's website [here](#) and include the following topics:

- A resolution recommending detailed reporting by law enforcement of criminal offenses involving controlled substances
- A resolution recommending states evaluate and improve statutes and regulations enabling them to eliminate illegitimate medical clinics commonly known as "Pill Mills"
- A resolution supporting efforts to safeguard the U.S. drug supply chain from substandard, ineffective and counterfeit drugs
- A Resolution supporting the effort to moderate the inappropriate utilization of hydrocodone combination products
- A Resolution in support of State Prescription Monitoring Programs (PMPs) and in opposition to any initiatives to duplicate or replace PMPs
- A Resolution supporting the Alliance of States with Prescription Monitoring Programs (ASPMP)

The Resolutions/Bylaws Committee is already hard at work evaluating several possible resolution and bylaw changes for 2013. More information will be forwarded to members in the coming months. Members are also encouraged to submit resolutions or resolution ideas to Kathy Keough, Executive Director, at kathykeough@nascsa.org.



NASCSA President Mark Keeley is shown presenting the 2012 President's Award to Karen Tannert of the Texas Department of Public Health for her many year's of support to NASCSA. Ms. Tannert served as a member of NASCSA's Executive Committee for many years including serving as President. Ms. Tannert was recognized by NASCSA for her tireless support of the organization throughout the years and her commitment to addressing prescription drug abuse and diversion.

Sending Thousands of Young People to ER Report Says

U.S. emergency rooms tended to more than 11,400 cases of drug-related health complications specifically linked to the use of synthetic marijuana in 2010, according to The [DAWN Report](#) from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). "It's not an epidemic," acknowledged Rear Admiral Peter Delany, director of SAMHSA's Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. "But it's a growing problem. And people need to be thinking about it, and how we're going to deal with it."

Please Consider Volunteering

As a small nonprofit organization, NASCSA relies heavily on volunteers throughout the year and during the annual conference. There are many volunteer opportunities including assisting during the business meetings, serving on committees and serving as an officer or member of the Executive Committee. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kathy Keough at KathyKeough@nascsa.org or a member of the Executive Committee to learn how you can get involved.

State Regulatory Developments

State Regulatory Developments is a monthly compilation by NASCSA of state regulatory actions related to pharmacy and controlled substances. State Regulatory Developments is located on the website at www.nascsa.org under "News".

NASCSA Forum

Members are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the "Forum"

2012-2013 Committees Formed

Want to become more involved in supporting the work of NASCSA? Many state/associate members have already stepped up to the plate, with a record number of volunteers having agreed to serve on NASCSA committees for the 2012-2013 year. NASCSA is primarily a volunteer-led organization. Accordingly, NASCSA depends upon its committees to conduct the bulk of the work and to ensure that the membership is well represented. This year the following committees have been formed: Program; Resolutions/Bylaws; Special Projects; Survey/Data; and Membership. For a list of current committees click [here](#).

Record Number of Applicants for 2013 Prescription Drug Monitoring Grants

A record number of states have applied to NASCSA to receive one of a number of grants to support state Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs). The deadline was December 5, 2012 with awards to be announced early next month. This solicitation is part of the \$200,000 grant for FY2012 from Purdue Pharma, LP to assist states with funding PDMPs for the purpose of operating and expanding such programs, and promoting the ability of state PDMPs to address the abuse and diversion of controlled substances. The maximum amount of each grant is \$20,000.

NASCSA Represented at PDMP Forum Hosted by the Alliance of States With Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs



Pictured at last week's meeting in Washington, DC hosted by the Alliance of States With Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs left to right are: NASCSA Vice President Ralph Orr, Sherry Green of the National Alliance of Model State Drug Laws, Bill Bronson, NC, Kathy Zahn, ND, Alliance President Cheryl Anderson, Barbara Carter, ND, Joe Fontenot, LA, and Joshua Bolin, National Association of Boards of Pharmacy

Ralph Orr, Vice President of NASCSA attended a forum hosted by the Alliance of States with Prescription Monitoring

site for members and others interested in a variety of topics related to controlled substances, prescription monitoring programs, trends, legislation and other issues. The Forum, located at <http://forum.nascsa.org> is also accessible from the main website www.nascsa.org. The Forum requires a one-time initial registration to create a user name and password in order to post or subscribe and is moderated by volunteers. NASCSA has initially limited the number of "forums" included, however if you would like to suggest a new forum subject please send your suggestion to KathyKeough@nascsa.org. Detailed instructions on how to use the Forum are also included on the site.

Programs December 11, 2012 in Washington, DC. The forum was to "introduce" or in some cases, "reintroduce" the Alliance to its partners in the federal government, the non-profit sector and to other individuals who are interested in Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP's) and the critical role that they play in assisting law enforcement and healthcare practitioners in fighting prescription drug abuse.

Orr, who attended the forum commented, "I am honored to be here to represent NASCSA at this important meeting. NASCSA has broad interest in the arena of controlled substances as evidenced by recent resolutions concerning collection and disposal programs, scheduling of drugs, continuing education for health care providers, appropriate legislation and regulation of pain management clinics, regulation of synthetic cannabinoids and research chemicals, and others. Many of our regular members are also members of the Alliance of States with Prescription Monitoring Programs (The Alliance) and NASCSA has had a long history of supporting and partnering with the Alliance on projects such as the Prescription Monitoring Program Model Act. NASCSA has also been able to provide grants to state PDMPs for the past few years to assist with small projects that impact greatly on enhancing these programs."

"At its most recent conference this fall, NASCSA membership reiterated its support of state PDMPs and to the Alliance in particular via its resolution process. In a further move of support, the Executive Committee agreed to allow its Executive Director provide administrative support to the Alliance and to allow for the scheduling of each organization's annual meeting to coincide for at least the next two years," Orr said, "NASCSA looks forward to partnering with the Alliance, NABP, and NAMSDL as well as federal partners and our other members in continuing to combat the serious public health issue that is prescription drug abuse."

The Alliance was pleased to announce its partnership with NASCSA, NAMSDL, and NABP. Believing that the Alliance's new direction takes just this type of collaboration and partnership to be successful. More than 40 attendees participated in the meeting, including representatives from many federal agencies, state and non-profit stakeholders. "This partnership serves to further strengthen the Alliance's ability as a membership organization to provide subject matter expertise, administrative support, and policy analysis and guidance to its membership," said Alliance President Cheryl Anderson.

Rx Monitoring Program Should Leverage Health IT: Report

State prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) should harness health IT to improve efficacy, according to a report prepared for the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC). Currently, 43 states have operational PDMPs that collect data electronically on controlled substances dispensed from pharmacies. However, various barriers-including technology and policy issues, as well as inconsistencies in the programs-limit their effectiveness, according to the [report](#).

We hope you enjoyed this latest edition of NASCSA News. We strongly encourage members and others to share information from their respective agencies for consideration for our newsletter. Please email KathyKeough@nascsa.org with your articles and ideas.

Sincerely,

Kathy Keough
Executive Director