

Massachusetts Board of Registration in Dentistry

Advisory on the Management of Pain

Date Adopted: March 11, 2009

Board of Registration in Dentistry

- 10 members appointed by the Governor
- 6 dentists, 1 dental hygienist, 1 dental assistant, and 2 members of the public.
- Mission: To protect the health and safety of the public through enforcement of statutes, rules, regulations, standards, and policies governing the practice of dentistry in the Commonwealth.
- Licenses 7500+ dentists and 6800+ dental hygienists. In 2011 – 16,000 dental assistants. Investigates 300+ complaints annually.

Purpose of Pain Management Advisory

To provide a framework for ensuring patient access to clinically necessary and effective pain management.

Advisory Development

- 2008 - Massachusetts Pain Initiative approaches Boards of Dentistry, Nursing, and Pharmacy
- Carol Silveira, MS, RN, Assistant Director, MA Board of Nursing
- Cheryl Lathum, PharmD, BCPS, RPh, Investigator, MA Board of Pharmacy
- Boards of Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy

Resources

Model Policy for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain (2004), Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc. available at http://www.fsmb.org/pdf/2004_grpol_Controlled_Substances.pdf.

Resources (cont.)

Definitions Related to the Use of Opioids for the Treatment of Pain: A Consensus Document of the American Academy of Pain Medicine, the American Pain Society and the American Society of Addiction Medicine (2001) available at

<http://www.painmed.org/pdf/definition.pdf>

Introduction - I

The Board of Registration in Dentistry (the Board) encourages the development and implementation of practices to ensure the appropriate application of up-to-date knowledge and treatment modalities that serve to improve the quality of life for those patients who suffer from pain and reduce the morbidity and costs associated with untreated or inappropriately treated pain.

Introduction - II

For purposes of this Advisory, the inappropriate management of pain includes non-treatment, under-treatment, over-treatment and the continued use of ineffective treatment. The Board encourages dentists to view pain management as a part of quality dentistry practice for all patients experiencing pain within the maxillofacial area. All dentists should become knowledgeable about assessing and diagnosing patients' pain and effective methods of pain management.

Advisory

A dentist licensed by the Board is responsible and accountable for engaging in the practice of dentistry in accordance with accepted standards of care. It is the Board's current position that these standards, in the context of appropriate, legitimate and effective pain assessment, diagnosis and management of pain, include:

Standards

Development and implementation of a patient's pain management plan that is evidence-based and includes a comprehensive and on-going pain assessment, appropriate pharmacological and non-pharmacological modalities, and the substantiation of adequate symptom control.

Standards (cont.)

Complete, accurate and legible entries in all appropriate patient or resident records required by federal and state laws and regulations, and accepted standards of care.

Standards (cont.)

Use, when appropriate, of controlled substances including opioid analgesics in the management of all pain types. All medications provided to a patient by the dentist should be an appropriate therapeutic pharmaceutical commensurate with the patient's diagnosis.

Standards (cont.)

Inter-disciplinary consultation and collaboration with the patient's medical care provider(s).

Standards (cont.)

Recognition that tolerance and physical dependence are normal consequences of sustained use of opioids and are not synonymous with addiction - tolerance is a physiologic state resulting from regular use of a drug in which (a) an increased dosage is needed to produce a specific effect or (b) a reduced effect is observed with a constant dose over time.

Standards (cont.)

Recognition that physical dependence is a state of adaptation that is manifested by drug class specific signs and symptoms that can be produced by abrupt cessation, rapid dose reduction, decreasing blood level of the drug, and/or administration of an antagonist.

Standards (cont.)

Exercising of sound professional judgment to recognize that pseudo-addiction may develop as a direct consequence of inadequate pain management, and that pseudo-addiction can be distinguished from true addiction in that inappropriate drug seeking behaviors resolve when pain is effectively treated.

Standards (cont.)

Recognition that patients with chemical dependency may require specialized pain management involving controlled substances including opioids.

Standards (cont.)

Recognition that a patient who suffers from extreme pain or disease progression may require increased doses of pain medication, and that the appropriate dose is the dose required to effectively manage the patient's pain in that particular circumstance.

Standards (cont.)

Adherence to system safe-guards that are designed to minimize the potential for abuse and diversion when controlled substances are used.

Standards (cont.)

Acceptance of:

- a) Patient self-determination and autonomy;
and
- b) The importance of culturally sensitive education of the patient, family, significant others, and caregivers.

Competencies

The dentist is also responsible and accountable for acquiring and maintaining the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to practice in accordance with accepted standards of care for pain management.

Competencies (cont.)

Such competencies may be obtained through basic, graduate or continuing education programs, as appropriate to the dentist's scope of practice, and include, but are not limited to, the following:

Competencies (cont.)

- Knowledge of the current federal and state laws and regulations for the prescription, dispensing, administration and destruction of controlled substances; and
- Current evidence-based guidelines developed by nationally-recognized professional organizations in the assessment and management of pain.

Partnerships

- Massachusetts Boards of Nursing, Pharmacy, Medicine, and Physician Assistants
- DPH Bureau of Substance Abuse Services
- DPH Office of Oral Health
- Massachusetts Dental Society
- Massachusetts Pain Management Initiative

Partnerships (cont.)

- DPH Division of Health Care Quality
- DPH Division of Food and Drugs
- US Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Agency
- Massachusetts Professional Recovery System
- ...and more to come!!!

Contact the Board

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