



**Arkansas State Medical Board**  
**1401 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 340**  
**Little Rock, AR 72201-2936**

**Issue Number Sixty**

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# NEWSLETTER

## Pain Management and Our Prescription Drug Problem

*By J. Carlos Roman, M.D., Chairman, Pain Management Review Committee*

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Prescription drug abuse is Arkansas' number one drug problem. The uncomfortable reality for Arkansas physicians is that we are the largest source of narcotics and we bear some responsibility for the problem. The question of how and who to prescribe pain medications is a subject of much debate with several interested parties. The patients, doctors, drug companies, law enforcement agencies, regulatory agencies, legislative bodies, drug dealers, and others across our nation all have a role in the problem. The Arkansas State Legislature passed legislation to form a Pain Management Review Committee. The Committee is used as an advisory committee to the Arkansas State Medical Board. In the course of many investigations, spirited debate, and listening to the experiences of physicians from around the state, a lot has been learned.

The drug problem patient from a doctor's standpoint can be the user patient, the dealer patient, or sometimes both. The patient with a drug problem will often give forewarning if we know some danger signs. Patients with psychiatric problems, young age, an addiction history (cigarettes count), history of drug overdose, criminal record (DUI counts), a family history of addiction, urine drug screen positive for drugs not prescribed, urine drug screen negative for drugs prescribed, dismissal from previous doctor, failure to provide previous medical records, request for pure drug preparations (without acetaminophen), assertive/disruptive behavior toward you and your staff, frequent call-in for drug refills, exaggerates physical symptoms from objectively mild disease, physical signs of drug abuse (skin tracks and scarring), drug abuse related diseases (hepatitis, endocarditis),

and multiple drug allergies are all potential signs of a problem patient.

The financial gain in obtaining and selling prescription pills is extraordinarily lucrative. A kilogram of cocaine in Arkansas will sell for 18-22 thousand dollars. A kilogram bag full of oxycodone would be worth over 1 million dollars, and will not be sniffed out by drug dogs. Opioids sell from \$1-\$4 per mg of drug with Dilaudid getting the highest dollar per milligram street price. A patient with a \$10 drug copay filling a prescription for #180 Percocet tablets could sell the prescription for \$1,800 dollars. A whopping 180 percent return on investment.

Understanding the financial drive behind the prescription drug problem is essential in stopping drug diversion into our communities.

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## Pain Management and Our Prescription Drug Problem

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There are many reasons some physicians end up with prescribing problems. Many physicians struggle with keeping proper professional boundaries with their patients, family and friends. Saying “NO” is difficult for many doctors. Physicians with drug or alcohol problems often self-prescribe or divert drugs to themselves. Office protocols concerning drug samples, prescription pads, call-in policies, call coverage, monitoring controlled substances kept in clinic, etc., can all lead to prescribing issues. Not keeping up with current regulatory requirements from the DEA to ASMB can lead to prescribing problems. The other common physician problem is poor documentation and patient record-keeping.

Prescription drug abuse is now the leading cause of accidental death in our country. We need to educate ourselves about this problem and do our part to address this public health issue. When we don't lead on medical issues others will, and that leads to more onerous regulations. We risk arbitrary caps on how much we can prescribe, and could lose the ability to call in pain prescriptions for our patients. Our patients suffer when we lose our freedom to practice medicine. ♦



## Official Board Appointments

Governor Mike Beebe has appointed Mr. Larry D. “Buddy” Lovell to the Arkansas State Medical Board as the Senior Citizen Representative. Mr. Lovell is a retired consultant from Marked Tree, Arkansas. He replaces Roger Harmon, P.D. His term will expire December 31, 2019. We welcome Mr. Lovell to the Board.

Governor Beebe has also reappointed Omar T. Atiq, M.D. as a member of the Board. Dr. Atiq practices Hematology/Oncology in Pine Bluff. His term will expire December 31, 2019. We congratulate Dr. Atiq on his second term with the Board. ♦

## Food & Drug Administration Notification

Reynaldo Rodriguez, representative from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has provided our office with information indicating the FDA recommends health care professionals discontinue prescribing and dispensing prescription combination drug products with more than 325 mg of acetaminophen to protect consumers. The FDA statement for medical professionals can be found at: <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm381644.htm>. The FDA further recommends that when a pharmacist receives a prescription for a combination product with more than 325 mg of acetaminophen per dosage unit that they contact the prescriber to discuss a product with a lower dose of acetaminophen. ♦

## Incomplete Profiles

The ASMB/CCVS posted the following message to the CCVS website on November 1, 2013 and it is now in effect:

*Effective January 1, 2014, the Centralized Credentials Verification Service (CCVS) will no longer offer customers the option of requesting Incomplete Profiles (Policy 5.4.3). This announcement is posted according to Policy 3.1.3.5 to comply with posted notification 30 days prior to implementation. This section will be removed from the CCVS Policies and Procedures and from the CCVS User Guide posted online on or before January 31, 2014. Please note this change. ♦*

## Compliance with all License Renewal Requirements is a MUST

The Board recently voted to flag licensee's files as non-compliant when the renewal follow-up documentation is not received in a timely manner. Flagging a file prohibits the licensee from renewing their license next year until the required documentation is received and approved.

Each profession is different and should pay close attention to the instruction pertaining to the follow up documentation that is required.

CME/CEU - the Board conducts monthly audits and should you be selected, you are given 90 days to provide your documentation. Non-compliance with this request will also result in your file being flagged and will keep you from being able to renew next year. Proof of CME/CEU must be received and approved for the flag to be removed. ♦

## Arkansas State Medical Board 2013 Annual Report

The 2013 members and officers of the Arkansas State Medical Board are as follows:

Joseph M. Beck, II, M.D. Chairman; Sylvia D. Simon, M.D., Vice-Chairman; Bob E. Cogburn, M.D., Secretary; Harold B. Betton, M.D., Treasurer; Omar T. Atiq, M.D.; Stephen L. Cathey, M.D.; Jim C. Citty, M.D.; William F. Dudding, M.D.; Roger Harmon, P.D.; John E. Hearnshberger, II, M.D.; Veryl D. Hodges, D.O.; Scott Pace, Pharm.D., J.D.; John H. Scribner, M.D. and John B. Weiss, M.D.

The Board met bimonthly and addressed complaints, hearings, and other pertinent business affecting health care in the State of Arkansas.

### 2013 Statistics

#### 2013 Licensing Statistics

Medical Doctors & Doctors of Osteopathy Licensed	<b>607</b>
Medical Doctors & Doctors of Osteopathy (total)	<b>9,395</b>
Medical Doctors & Doctors of Osteopathy (in state)	<b>6,233</b>
Occupational Therapists Licensed	<b>109</b>
Occupational Therapists (total)	<b>1,332</b>
Occupational Therapy Assistants Licensed	<b>91</b>
Occupational Therapy Assistants (total)	<b>409</b>
Physician Assistants Licensed	<b>44</b>
Physician Assistants (total)	<b>261</b>
Respiratory Care Therapists Licensed	<b>137</b>
Respiratory Care Therapists (total)	<b>1,945</b>
Radiologist Assistants Licensed	<b>0</b>
Radiologist Assistants (total)	<b>3</b>
Radiology Practitioner Assistants (total)	<b>4</b>

#### Summary of Board Proceedings for 2013

Individual Discussions and Issues (total)	<b>515</b>
Complaints (including investigations and other issues involving licensed practitioners)	<b>415</b>
Issues	<b>100</b>

#### 2013 Board Actions

Suspension	<b>16</b>
Suspension/Stay	<b>1</b>
Revocation	<b>2</b>
Revocation (stayed)	<b>8</b>
Probation	<b>0</b>
Surrendered	<b>4</b>

Reprimand	<b>6</b>
Consent Orders	<b>10</b>

#### Complaint Allegations (including investigations)

Advertising	<b>1</b>
Attestation/Renewal Affirmative Answers	<b>16</b>
Behavior/Attitude	<b>23</b>
Billing/Insurance Issues	<b>10</b>
Board Actions Taken by Other States	<b>10</b>
Criminal Allegations	<b>7</b>
Lack of Communication or Miscommunication	<b>4</b>
CME/CEU Issues	<b>7</b>
Discrimination	<b>2</b>
Dissatisfaction with Treatment/Procedure	<b>65</b>
HIPAA Issues	<b>2</b>
Hospital Reporting	<b>15</b>
Inmate Allegations	<b>9</b>
Inappropriate Prescribing	<b>16</b>
Incompetence in Prescribing	<b>1</b>
Inquiry from Practitioner	<b>3</b>
Lack of Attention to Medical Needs	<b>37</b>
Malpractice Regulation 23	<b>35</b>
Medical Records – Failure to Provide	<b>10</b>
Medical Records –Discrepancy	<b>11</b>
Misdiagnosis	<b>12</b>
Miscellaneous	<b>19</b>
Over-Prescribing/Over-Testing	<b>27</b>
Patient felt Offended/Violated by Physician	<b>1</b>
Patient Abandonment	<b>1</b>
Doctor Refuses to Prescribe/Refill Pain Meds	<b>8</b>
Didn't/Won't Comply with Patient's Request to Complete Paperwork	<b>5</b>
Staff-Generated Issues	<b>4</b>
Self-Prescribing or Prescribing to Family	<b>2</b>
Self-Reporting	<b>6</b>
Sexual or Romantic Relationship	<b>4</b>
Terminated Patient	<b>6</b>
Unsanitary Treatment Conditions	<b>1</b>
Licensure Issue	<b>9</b>
Update	<b>26</b>

There were no new or amended regulations during this calendar year. ♦

## Board Actions & License Adjustments 11/6/2013 through 1/15/2014

CUNNINGHAM, Laurence William, D.O. (E-7740)  
Jacksonville, TX  
Consent Order, 11/18/2013

ELKINS, James Philip, M.D. (C-4703)  
Rogers, AR  
Consent Order, 12/5/2013  
Emergency Order of Suspension, 11/19/2013

GOMEZ, Henry Luis, M.D. (E-1534)  
El Dorado, AR  
Returned to Active, 12/5/2013

GRANT, Alissa Michelle, M.D. (E-7744)  
West Memphis, AR  
Returned to Active, 12/5/2013

GREENWOOD, Denise Rochelle, M.D. (E-0176)  
Mayflower, AR  
Revoked, 12/30/2013

KING, Kristy Stepps, M.D. (E-5874)  
Little Rock, AR  
Consent Order, 12/30/2013

SIMPSON, Todd Richard, D.O. (E-0141)  
Fayetteville, AR  
Revoked/Stayed, 12/5/2013

STREETT, David Julian, M.D. (E-1489)  
Little Rock, AR  
Revoked/Stayed, 12/5/2013

TERKEURST, John Simmons, M.D. (C-6476)  
Mountain Home, AR  
Surrendered, 12/9/2013



## Scheduled Board Meeting Dates for the Arkansas State Medical Board

February 6-7, 2014

April 3-4, 2014

June 5-6, 2014

August 7-8, 2014

October 2-3, 2014

December 4-5, 2014

The agenda for each meeting will be posted online 1 week prior to each meeting on Wednesday by 4:00 pm.

The Board will hold “called” meetings when necessary.

Meetings will be held in the Board Room at  
1401 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 340  
Little Rock, Arkansas

## Scheduled Allied Healthcare Meetings

### Respiratory Care Examining Committee

March 13, 2014

June 19, 2014

September 18, 2014

December 11, 2014

### Physician Assistant Advisory Committee

February 5, 2014

April 2, 2014

June 4, 2014

August 6, 2014

October 1, 2014

December 3, 2014

### Pain Management Review Committee

March 20, 2014

July 24, 2014

December 18, 2014

### Occupational Therapy Examining Committee

April 14, 2014

July 14, 2014

November 3, 2014

Dates and times of meetings are subject to change.

## CCVS Account Administrator Changes

CCVS Account Administrators are reminded to complete the process for changing CCVS Account Administrators by sending in the required letter from your old Account Administrator, CEO, CFO, COO or HR staff or someone that oversees or supervises the new Account Administrator so your user name and password can be provided to you once this process is completed and in a timely manner. ◆

## Deactivating and Activating CCVS Account Users

CCVS Account Administrators are encouraged to periodically “clean up” their accounts by deactivating old users and activating new users, rather than allowing new users to use other staff’s user name and passwords. This security process is set-up to protect the customer organizations and is to your benefit. ◆

## Requesting Status Updates on CCVS Orders

The CCVS staff cannot provide status updates on CCVS orders, even if the customer contacts the specific staff currently working on the order. They are not allowed to provide this information. After they complete their section of the file, it goes to quality audit. If corrections are needed or additional clarification or verifications are needed, it may delay the file from release while this is obtained. The staff also cannot stop working on orders to pull a file out of working cycle to review it because this will delay the release time for other organizations with the same order on the same provider. Turn-around-times are set by state law and are included in the Policy and Procedure Manual and in the CCVS User Guide. There is no way to determine if missing verifications will be received earlier or on the last day the file is due by state law. ♦

## Practitioner's Renewal & CCVS Profile

MDs and DOs in Arkansas receive a copy of their CCVS profile during their online license renewal process. The profile they view online is a snapshot of their profile at the time it was created. They are adding edits to this snapshot or picture of their profile. They should not expect to be able to go into the system and print their updated profile with these edits on them. They are not making these changes directly into the profile in the ASMB/CCVS system that is also provided to CCVS customers. The staff must verify this information before providing it to CCVS customers and access to this completed profile is securely limited to ASMB/CCVS employees. Once the edits are received, verified and entered by the CCVS, the profile can be released or provided to CCVS organizations and to the practitioner if there is a request from them. Precedence is given to practitioners who are waiting on privileges for a hospital or network in Arkansas. Out of state practitioners not currently practicing in Arkansas and retired practitioners are updated as well but those practicing in Arkansas will require their information to be updated much sooner.

In order to receive a copy of a practitioner's personal profile, the practitioner has to request this by email to [ccvs@armedicalboard.org](mailto:ccvs@armedicalboard.org) and someone will contact them to verify they are the person who should receive the profile and confirm the method this will be sent (fax, email attachment, mail).

**Personal profiles cannot be shared with an organization that is credentialing the practitioner.** ♦

## CCVS Attestations

Please be aware that organizations are allowed to collect their own attestations in addition to the one collected by the CCVS. The ASMB/CCVS has requested organizations accept the standard attestation utilized by the CCVS, as it meets all regulatory standards. **The CCVS must have a current, signed and completed attestation on file every 120 days.** Organizations can set their own time limits on how long they will accept an attestation and they may all internally utilize the one created for the CCVS. If the CCVS staff hasn't contacted the practitioner, they probably have been able to obtain one from one of the organizations where you have privileges. Several organizations do voluntarily provide those to the CCVS when they collect them. However, just because an organization has a practitioner complete a CCVS attestation, it does not mean that they provided a copy to the ASMB/CCVS or that it meets the requirements for utilization by the CCVS. If an organization changes the wording on the CCVS attestation, it cannot be utilized by the CCVS because it does not meet requirements.

**NOTE: A current, within 120 days of signature date, attestation has to be on file in order for a practitioner's CCVS profile to be released to an organization attempting to credential them. Delays in signing this form may cause delays in completing the practitioner's credentialing with that organization.**

The CCVS is operating on a timed schedule, as statute requires the turn-around-time (time the order was placed to the time it was provided to the organization) cannot be more than that listed in policy and statute. There is a different turn-around-time for each type of order and the organization determines and decides what type of order they wish to place at the moment of placing that order. The organization also knows how long it will take to receive that credentialing information before they place the order. In addition, this information is posted to the Board's Information Downloads section in the CCVS User Guidebook. The CCVS processes an average of 4,000 orders for credentialing profiles every quarter and on average is able to provide these profiles in less than required and posted turn-around-time so as not to delay the practitioner's credentialing with that organization.

Please be aware of this process and complete this form in a timely manner and fax back to the ASMB/CCVS as soon as possible so it does not contribute to delays in your credentialing process.

If you have any questions about completing this form or about the questions on the form, please contact the CCVS by emailing your question to [ccvs@armedicalboard.org](mailto:ccvs@armedicalboard.org) or by calling Quality Assurance/Customer Service at 501/296-1951. ♦

**Mission of the Arkansas  
State Medical Board**

*Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the State of Arkansas with the goal that all citizens be provided with the highest quality health care.*

Arkansas State Medical Board  
1401 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 340  
Little Rock, AR 72201-2936

**Contact us!**

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Licensing Fax:  
(501) 296-1972

License Renewals Fax:  
(501) 603-3555

QI/CS Fax:  
(501) 682-3812

**Online Directory**

*All actively licensed Arkansas Physicians, Respiratory Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants, Physician Assistants and Radiology Practitioner Assistants may be queried in the Online Directory. To purchase data files of these practitioners, please visit our website. Payment is via a secured online order form with Discovery, Visa or MasterCard only.*



**ATTENTION!**

**Change of Address Form is now available on the ASMB Web Site:  
<http://www.armedicalboard.org/forms.aspx>**

**Please FAX: (501) 603-3555**

**E-Mail: ([support@armedicalboard.org](mailto:support@armedicalboard.org)) in .pdf only**

**or Mail to:**

**Arkansas State Medical Board  
1401 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 340  
Little Rock, AR 72201-2936**

**Change of Address may be completed online with a licensee account.**