

# IDAHO DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

*Newsletter to Promote Pharmacy and Drug Law Compliance.*

## Proposed Changes to the Rules of the Idaho Board of Pharmacy

The Idaho Board of Pharmacy has been working on zero-based regulation, streamlining its rules per Governor Brad Little's [2020 Executive Order](#). Several significant changes have been proposed. One proposed change is to the requirement of continuing pharmacy education (CPE). Rather than specifying the number of CPE credits required for licensure renewal, the proposed rule indicates that "to meet the standard of care, pharmacists are expected to complete sufficient continuing education germane to the practice of pharmacy to maintain their professional competence. At license renewal, every pharmacist shall attest that they have maintained competence through continuing

education commensurate with their active practice setting." To see complete details, the proposed rule chapter can be accessed from the Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL) website under Rulemaking, Health Professions, Pharmacy, [Proposed Rule Chapter](#).

Negotiated rulemaking hearings were held on May 20, 2024, August 21, 2024, and September 12, 2024, at the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses, 11341 W Chinden Blvd, Boise, ID 83714. The proposed rule has been accepted and will be presented to the legislature for permanent change during the 2025 Idaho legislative session.



## Access the National Pharmacy Compliance News

A Service of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation (NABPF)



## Practitioners Dispensing Medication

DOPL has received several inquiries that have reflected the need to provide information regarding prescriber drug outlet (PDO) registration. A practitioner who dispenses legend drugs (not samples) to their patient(s) must register their facility as a PDO with the Board. A prescriber who administers but does not dispense legend drugs to their patient(s) is not required to register their facility as a PDO. If a provider administers and then dispenses the remaining doses of a legend drug to their patient, the provider will have to register as a PDO.

A pharmacist should know whether a practitioner has the correct registration before filling and distributing a prescription drug order to a practitioner's office. A PDO, as defined in the [Pharmacy Practice Act](#), "means a drug outlet in which prescription drugs or devices are dispensed directly to patients under the supervision of a prescriber, except where delivery is accomplished only through on-site administration or the provision of drug samples, patient assistance program drugs, or investigational drugs as permitted in [Chapter 94, Title 29, Idaho Code](#)."

## Opportunity for Pharmacists to Provide Greater Access to Patients Who Require MOUD

Opioid use disorder (OUD) continues to be a significant concern to Idahoans. Linking patients with OUD to providers of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) is a key step in combating this disease.

Idaho DOPL has been awarded a \$350,000 grant from the Idaho Behavioral Health Council in an effort to provide patients with OUD greater access to care. The grant

covers the cost of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration (\$888) for first-time registrants who have greater than or equal to two years of practice experience. The applicant must be licensed in Idaho, be a nonphysician with prescriptive authority (pharmacists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, prescribing psychologists, etc), have the appropriate education and

training to prescribe MOUD, and demonstrate a genuine desire to prescribe MOUD.

More information and the application are available on the Board's website under Resources/Forms, specifically under [DEA Grant Application Fillable Form](#). Applications are currently being accepted.

## Idaho Pharmacist Provider Medicaid Enrollment

Idaho Medicaid is excited to announce that pharmacists can enroll as individual providers with Idaho Medicaid. This became effective on August 19, 2024.

Pharmacists currently enrolled as ordering, referring, and prescribing providers can update their provider profiles with Gainwell Technologies at <https://www.idmedicaid.com>.

Reimbursement rates and covered services remain the same. For more information and upcoming trainings, please see Idaho Medicaid's [August 2024 MedicAide newsletter](#).



## Idaho Pharmacist Provider Medicaid Enrollment

(continued)

More information about the Idaho Medicaid's pharmacy program can be found on its [website](#). Thank you

for all you do to serve individuals with Medicaid throughout Idaho.

## Opioid Safety Support Resources for Idaho Providers

The opioid epidemic continues to increase across the country. Although it appears largely driven by illicit fentanyl and less by prescription opioid misuse, high-dose opioid prescribing for chronic, nonmalignant pain remains an issue. The Idaho Department of Health & Welfare Division of Public Health's Drug Overdose Prevention Program (DOPP) is using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Overdose Data to Action in States grant to facilitate a unique partnership with the Division of Medicaid's pharmacy program to use the prior authorization process to educate and support providers in Idaho to make safer decisions when prescribing opioids, ultimately reducing reliance on long-term opioid therapy for nonmalignant pain.

DOPP is currently funding two consultant pharmacists, Elaine Ladd and Amy McHenry, to focus solely on opioid and benzodiazepine safety. They work closely with Idaho Medicaid's Medical Director Dr Magni Hamso, who is Board certified in addiction medicine and internal medicine, to provide clinical decision support and educational

resources to Idaho prescribers, health systems, and community pharmacists on topics such as:

- 2022 CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain;
- Safe tapering or discontinuing of opioids;
- Best practices for transitioning between opioids;
- Non-opioid therapies for chronic pain;
- Buprenorphine for the treatment of chronic pain;
- Management of perioperative pain, including in patients on buprenorphine;
- Safe tapering or discontinuing of benzodiazepines; and
- Use of evidence-based medications to treat substance use disorders (SUDs).

Elaine and Amy also contribute to DOPP goals by providing case management to individuals on high-dose (>90 MME), long-term opioids for nonmalignant pain, especially when used concurrently with potentiators like sedative-hypnotics, benzodiazepines, gabapentinoids, and stimulants. In

addition, they make risk mitigation recommendations to health care providers such as co-dispensing naloxone, safe disposal to reduce excess opioids and benzodiazepines in the community, diversion prevention, and identification and treatment of SUDs.

Elaine and Amy look forward to being a resource to all Idaho providers and pharmacists and being a part of your patient-centered team with the unified goal of reducing accidental overdoses and deaths within our great state.

For more information about Idaho Medicaid's pharmacy benefit, visit <https://medicaidpharmacy.idaho.gov>.

For questions about prior authorizations, call 1-866/827-9967, Monday-Friday, 8 AM-5 PM MT.

You are encouraged to contact Elaine or Amy with any questions or patient support that you or your teams may need.

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# Announcing the New Idaho Practitioner Sales Reporting System

**This notice applies only to authorized drug distributors selling controlled substance (CS) medications to Idaho practitioners. Do not register if you are not selling to Idaho practitioners. Waivers or exemptions are not necessary and will not be issued.**

DOPL is launching a new platform for authorized drug distributors to submit sales to Idaho practitioners for CS drugs sold to Idaho practitioners. This is not a new requirement but a notification of a new reporting platform.

This communication affects the following (authorized drug distributors) licensees:

- Manufacturer (includes virtual),
- Wholesale Distributor (includes virtual),
- Resident and Nonresident Drug Outlet (if selling to Idaho practitioners), and
- Outsourcing Drug Outlet (if selling to Idaho practitioners).

Authorized drug distributors are required to complete the following:

- Create an account using this [link](#).
- Begin submitting reports on **August 1, 2024**. Submit the sales for the previous month on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- Guidelines for submitting reports will be available on [DOPL's website](#) by August 1, 2024.

To satisfy reporting requirements, account holders must submit one of the following:

- Sales to practitioners require a **Data Submission**.
- Practitioners with no sales must submit a **Zero Report**.

For assistance with registering or reporting, contact Bamboo Health at 1-844/966-4767 or visit the [Bamboo Health Help Desk](#). Technical assistance is available Monday-Friday, 8 AM-5 PM CT.

Questions for the prescription drug monitoring program coordinator? Call 208/605-4703 or email [PDMP@dopl.idaho.gov](mailto:PDMP@dopl.idaho.gov).

## Shortages: Help Public Health Help You

By *Lori Peck, Public Health Preparedness Planner*

During critical drug and other supply shortages, local public health preparedness (PHP) teams can support health care partners with locating and distributing scarce resources, including through the

Strategic National Stockpile, when necessary. To prepare for urgent situations, inventory information request procedures are tested once per quarter.

Previously, only some pharmacies (primarily community) were included in this process. However, hospitals and other health care facilities that administer and/or dispense



# Shortages: Help Public Health Help You

(continued)

By *Lori Peck*, Public Health Preparedness Planner

medication directly to patients are also affected by shortages. To support PHP partners and communities more effectively, PHP teams want to include all licensed entities in the inventory information request process.

PHP teams have heard from partners that the current inventory information request process has been inconvenient and cumbersome. As an alternative, PHP teams have developed a short online survey in which a pharmacy would simply indicate the quantity of the listed item on hand, typically

a specific strength (eg, number of 100 mg tablets) or formula (eg, liquid suspension). Quarterly test surveys would only have one inventory question, but, during shortages, there may be multiple inventory questions on the same survey. In both cases, answers would not be visible to other providers, only the PHP team.

Our PHP team would love to hear your feedback on this proposed solution and any other suggestions for how we can better support our partners (via this [link](#) or the QR code at the end of the paragraph). If you

would like further information, let PHP know in the survey, and we will reach out. As always, feel free to contact your local PHP team (contact information for each district is linked on the survey completion page). Thank you!

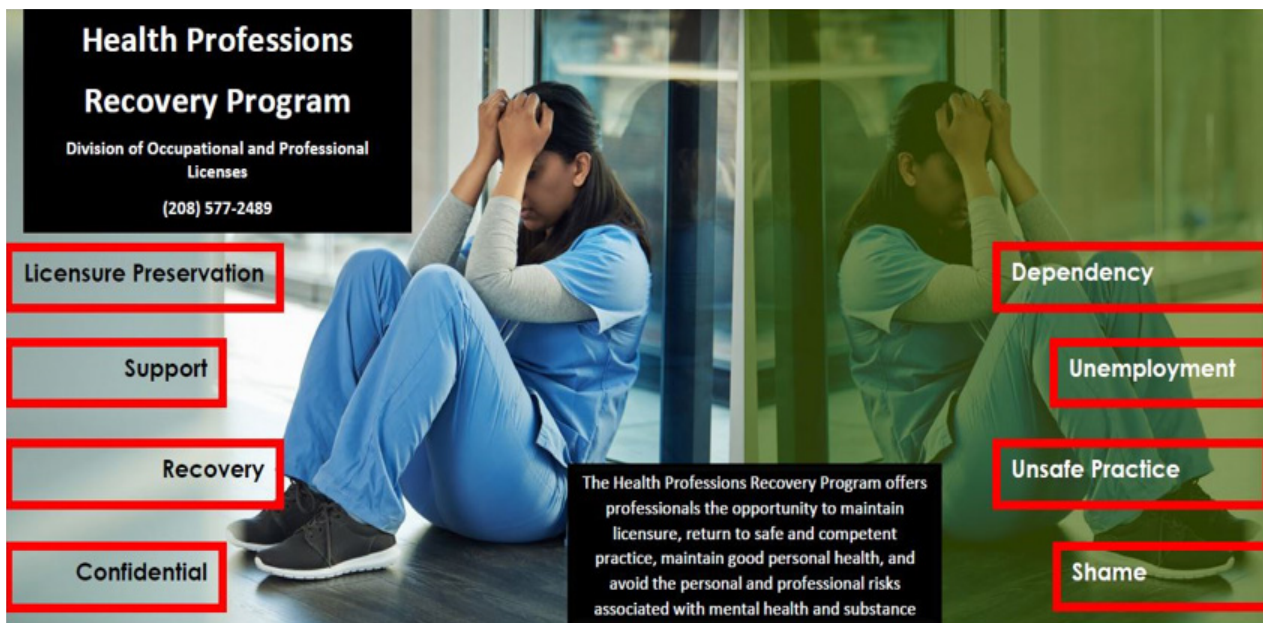


## 2024 Board Meeting Schedule

The Board meets quarterly; the next meeting date will be December 19. All meetings start at 8:30 AM and are held at the Division of Occupational

and Professional Licenses (located at 11341 W Chinden Blvd Boise, ID 83714). Meetings may also be attended virtually. See the

meeting agenda for the link to attend virtually at <https://dopl.idaho.gov/calendar>.



**Health Professions Recovery Program**  
Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses  
(208) 577-2489

Licensure Preservation

Support

Recovery

Confidential

Dependency

Unemployment

Unsafe Practice

Shame

The Health Professions Recovery Program offers professionals the opportunity to maintain licensure, return to safe and competent practice, maintain good personal health, and avoid the personal and professional risks associated with mental health and substance

# Health Professional Recovery Program

Are you working long hours and feeling burned out?

Do you feel yourself going down the wrong path?

Are you ready to make changes?

You have the power to change your path and seek help with substance use or mental health.

Idaho DOPL offers a confidential, nonpunitive program. This program provides assistance to medical

professionals who have, or are at risk of, developing an addiction.

The program's purpose is to assist professionals and their families to identify SUDs that pose a potential threat to their careers and get them the help they need.

If you answered yes to any of the questions above, let us help you preserve your license and get you on the road to recovery. For further

information about this program, contact Katie Stuart, CIP, program manager.

## Contact Information

Phone: 208/577-2489

Email: [Katie.Stuart@dopl.idaho.gov](mailto:Katie.Stuart@dopl.idaho.gov)

Website: [Welcome to Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses \(idaho.gov\)](#)



## New Well-Being Attestation for Licensing

Mental health is a concern for a large portion of the population, including health care professionals. The [Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation's](#) mission is "to reduce burnout of health care professionals and safeguard their well-being and job satisfaction." The foundation has challenged licensing boards to remove intrusive mental health questions from their applications. The DOPL Health Professions Boards have met the challenge

by replacing questions regarding mental health with a general attestation of well-being, which reads as follows: "As a Healthcare professional, I commit to monitoring my personal health and well-being, and, if I ever need treatment or counseling to support my health, I will attend to those needs by obtaining that treatment and counseling."

The attestation is part of all current licensure applications.

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*The Idaho Board of Pharmacy News is published by the Idaho Board of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation® (NABPF®) to promote compliance of pharmacy and drug law. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions, or policies of NABPF or the Board unless expressly so stated.*

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