

# IDAHO DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

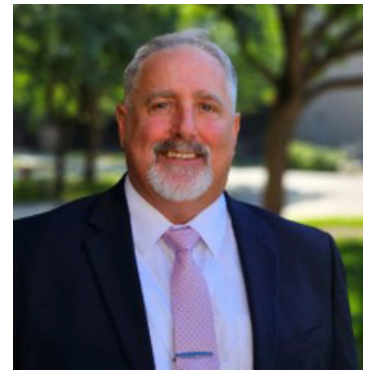
*Newsletter to Promote Pharmacy and Drug Law Compliance.*

## New Board Member

The Idaho Board of Pharmacy would like to introduce its newly appointed public member, John Nielsen.

John has worn many hats throughout his career. He currently works as the director of building safety and code for the city of Nampa, ID, and serves on the board of directors for the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials. John has a history with the Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL) as a program manager/executive officer. John's nearly 20-year career with the state did not start at DOPL; he began as a plumbing inspector. Before working for the state, John joined the military and later worked as a plumber, starting as an apprentice and working his way up to foreman.

John's military experience began when he joined the United States Marine Corps after finishing high school. During the Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Somalia campaigns, John served as a



structural mechanic/aerial observer-gunner for helicopters.

His experiences in the military, the private sector, and civil service have provided John with diverse knowledge in administration, business, and leadership. He is a dedicated employee who enjoys being a resource to others.

Idaho is home to John. He graduated from Gem State Adventist Academy in Caldwell, ID, attended Boise State University, and resides in Nampa. He enjoys golfing, hunting, and fishing for Kokanee in his free time. He has been married for over 25 years and has two lovely twin daughters.

We welcome John to the Board.





## Northern Idaho Pharmacist Providing Much-Needed MOUD Care

Patients experience barriers to care across the country, and northern Idaho residents are no strangers to these challenges. Although the Coeur d'Alene area is home to more than eight substance use disorder (SUD) clinics, many do not accept Medicaid for vital treatments, such as buprenorphine, leaving patients responsible for out-of-pocket costs that range from \$200 to \$400 per month.

This lack of Medicaid providers and the obvious need for medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) led a northern Idaho pharmacist, Korey Kreider, to establish a buprenorphine clinic within Medicine Man Prairie Pharmacy. This pharmacy is now helping bridge the treatment gap with the provision of affordable care to those who are struggling with opioid use disorder (OUD).

The impact of this clinic is best represented by the experience of one of its patients.

Before seeking care at Medicine Man Prairie Pharmacy, the patient, with a history of heroin addiction, decided to visit a local buprenorphine clinic. The clinic did not accept Medicaid for the treatment of OUD and required the patient to pay \$250 out of pocket. Unable to do so, the patient sought buprenorphine from street dealers to self-treat their addiction. Inadequate treatment and a lack of medical supervision had significant impacts on the patient's

home life and employment, as they were no longer able to work and had trouble handling their mood.

After hearing about a clinic willing to accept Medicaid, the opportunity to receive proper treatment became possible. The patient reached out to Medicine Man Prairie Pharmacy for an appointment. The initial visit came with several instructions: the patient was to take the prescribed 8 mg of buprenorphine twice daily, avoid any use of street medication, and initiate care with a primary provider. A follow-up appointment was scheduled for three days later, and the patient was only prescribed enough medication to last until the next appointment.

At the follow-up appointment, the patient reported that they were struggling to maintain their well-being at two doses per day, but were willing to do whatever it took to get clean and continue care with the pharmacy. The second visit was completed by providing a four-day supply and titrating up to three pills per day to deal with occasional breakthrough cravings.

The patient continued to follow the instructions provided by the pharmacy and returned to follow-up appointments as scheduled. At their most recent appointment, the patient was looking forward to returning to employment and had shown improvements in their mood and relationship with their children. They

### Access the National Pharmacy Compliance News

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



# Northern Idaho Pharmacist Providing Much-Needed MOUD Care

(cont)

expressed thanks to Korey Kreider for his consideration and efforts during their recent visits. The patient-oriented care and services provided by Korey not only impacted the quality of the patient's life but also the lives of their family and friends. The patient has since advised their

friends in similar situations to seek treatment at Korey's clinic.

The care provided by Korey Kreider can be extended throughout Idaho. The Idaho Prescriber DEA Registration Assistance for MOUD Accessibility grant allows nonphysician health care providers in

Idaho to acquire Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration to provide MOUD services. Funds awarded through this grant will reimburse the cost of DEA registration and allow pharmacists in Idaho, like Korey, to help tackle barriers to care.

## Grant for Pharmacists Who Want to Prescribe MOUD

OUD continues to be a significant concern to Idahoans. Linking patients with OUD to providers of MOUD is a key step in combating this disease.

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

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 these medications.

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.

## Medicaid Accepting Enrollment of Pharmacists as Individual Providers

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, LLC, at <https://www.idmedicaid.com>. Reimbursement rates and covered services remain the same. For more information and upcoming trainings, please see page four of Idaho Medicaid's [August 2024 MedicAide](#)

[newsletter](#). More information about Idaho Medicaid's pharmacy program can be found [here](#). 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 escalate 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 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 enjoy being a resource to all Idaho providers and pharmacists and 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 you or your teams may need.

Elaine Ladd, PharmD  
208/364-1829  
[elaine.ladd@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:elaine.ladd@dhw.idaho.gov)

Amy McHenry, RPh  
208/364-1829  
[amy.mchenry@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:amy.mchenry@dhw.idaho.gov)

# Free CE for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians to Improve PMP Data

Take advantage of this free Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education-accredited educational opportunity providing one hour of continuing education (CE) for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. This program, developed in partnership with the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities and 12 prescription monitoring

program (PMP) administrators, analyzes the importance and value of complete, accurate data reported by dispensers to PMPs and assesses the impact of intentional or unintentional data entry errors and data omissions on patient safety. It also discusses the downstream impacts of pharmacy-reported PMP data on clinical decision-making processes and helps pharmacy staff

identify and implement changes that can be made in their practice setting to improve the data's integrity. Visit <https://ce.talemhealth.com/a/MWEORC>. This link and further information will also be available on the Idaho Board of Pharmacy [website](#) under Board News.

If you received credit for this CE before October 22, 2024, you can still complete the CE and receive credit.

## Idaho Board of Pharmacy 2024-2025 Meeting Schedule

The Board will meet quarterly on the following dates:

2024

- December 19

2025

- March 20

- June 18
- September 18
- December 11

All meetings start at 8:30 AM and are held at the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses,

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 can choose the direction you are going and get help with substance use or mental health.

Idaho DOPL offers a confidential, nonpunitive program. This program was created to assist medical

professionals (doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, etc) 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.

Program Manager: Katie Stuart, CIP

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 \(idaho.gov\)](https://www.idaho.gov/divisions/occupational-and-professional-licenses)

---

*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.*

*Nicki Chopski, PharmD, ANP - State News Editor*

*Lemrey "Al" Carter, PharmD, MS, RPh - National News Editor & Executive Editor*

*Megan Pellegrini - Publications and Editorial Manager*

---

**11341 W Chinden Blvd, Building #4 | Boise, ID 83714**

---