



## **Federation of State Medical Boards Statement on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic**

The opioid epidemic is a national public health crisis that has impacted every community in America. The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and its 70 member boards are working diligently to address the issue through policy development and education.

Opioid abuse and misuse have been issues of concern for the FSMB for nearly twenty years. In 1998, the FSMB developed its first model guidelines encouraging safe and effective treatment of patients with pain. The FSMB has revised and updated these model guidelines in 2004, 2013, and most recently in 2017 with the adoption of “Guidelines for the Chronic Use of Opioid Analgesics.” The goal of this policy is to provide guidance to state medical boards in assessing physicians’ management of pain in their patients and whether opioids are being used in a medically appropriate manner.

In April of 2018, the FSMB adopted recommendations on the effective use of prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs). PDMPs have the potential to serve as effective tools in addressing substance use disorder by providing prescribers and health care professionals with accurate information about the prescriptions patients have obtained. The FSMB recommendations encourage mandatory registration for prescribers of controlled substances and universal use of PDMPs under specific circumstances.

As the national voice of state medical boards, the FSMB educates the public, physicians and policymakers about the work of medical regulators to address opioid misuse and addiction. The FSMB will continue to focus on meeting with state and federal lawmakers and health officials to help align state and federal efforts. The FSMB will further its partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to develop and host live continuing medical education (CME) activities to educate DEA registered physicians about key state and federal laws. The FSMB will continue to support its member boards’ efforts to educate the public about the resources available to them in their state or territory.

As a member of the NAM Action Collaborative, the FSMB looks forward to finding comprehensive solutions to the opioid epidemic and ending this public health crisis.