ABMS Member Boards’ Commitment to Addressing Opioid Misuse and Abuse through Continuing Certification Programs

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OVERVIEW

Opioid misuse and abuse has emerged as a major public health problem. Through its programs for Continuing Certification, the ABMS Member Boards Community collectively (“ABMS”) reaches over 540,000 physicians with time-limited specialty certification. By leveraging continuing certification programs to address opioid misuse and abuse, ABMS has engaged in several national initiatives aimed to stem the opioid epidemic and is positioned to be an important stakeholder to the public, policymakers, and federal agencies.

Improving the Assessment of Physician Medical Knowledge and Clinical Decision-Making: Longitudinal Assessment Strategies, Lifelong Learning Initiatives and Society Collaborations

Safety in Opioid Prescribing Initiative: Item Bank Development, Explanations and Citations for Member Boards Continuing Certification Programs

A collaborative initiative component of 10 ABMS Member Boards and ABMS will integrate the assessment of safe prescribing practices into longitudinal assessment programs across multiple specialties. Through this collaboration, a pool of high-quality, case-based items, explanations, and citations focused on effectively and safely prescribing opioids will be disseminated across Member Boards’ longitudinal assessment platforms. The case-based items will be used to assess knowledge, judgment, and skills as a component of Member Boards’ continuing certification program.

The Safety in Opioid Prescribing Initiative will focus on key subject areas defined by the FDA Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) Blueprint for Health Care Provider Education.

The ABMS Continuing Certification Directory improves diplomates’ access to quality, relevant continuing certification activities that are approved by one or more Member Boards. Recognition of the dependency between safe and appropriate prescribing practices and the delivery of high-quality patient care presents an opportunity to address learning and self-assessment. The ABMS Member Boards’ commitment to addressing opioid misuse and abuse, four educational initiatives are compliant with the FDA’s REMS blueprint for health care provider education. Two of these educational initiatives represent key collaborations with medical specialty societies. An additional educational initiative for REMS-compliant activities will address multiple opioid-related issues and aims to improve safe prescribing practices and patient safety.

LEVERAGING THE CONTINUING CERTIFICATION DIRECTORY TO INCREASE ALIGNMENT BETWEEN CONTINUING CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS AND THE FDA RISK EVALUATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES (REMS) BLUEPRINT FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS EDUCATION

SCOPE of Pain

Developed by Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) in partnership with the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS) and the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), the Safe and Competent Opioid Prescribing Education Initiative (SCOPe) program is a comprehensive curriculum designed to help clinicians manage chronic pain and safely prescribe opioid analgesics, when indicated, based on the FDA Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) curriculum blueprint.

SCOPe has the longest running opioid-related continuing medical education program and has served as a major thought leader in disseminating evidence-based guidelines and lessons learned from five years of educating over 134,000 clinicians from around the country on this topic. SCOPe’s programwide evaluation demonstrates high levels of attendees’ intent to change towards guideline-based practice and evidence at follow up of significant improvements in knowledge, confidence, and self-reported clinical practice. This REMS-compliant educational initiative has been integrated into nine specialty certification programs including Family Medicine, Preventive Medicine, Psychiatry & Neurology, and Plastic Surgery.

REMS Blueprint for Opioid Prescribing

An education initiative developed by the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and aligned with the FDA Blueprint for Prescriber Education for Extended-Release and Long-Acting Opioid Analgesics. The educational content supports the assessment of best practices for the safe and effective prescribing of extended-release (ER) and long-acting (LA) opioids.

Automatic reimbursement policies for patients who are in pain management programs. This REMS-compliant education initiative has been integrated into five specialty certification programs including Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Anesthesiology, Family Medicine, Preventive Medicine Psychiatry & Neurology.

LEVERAGING THE ABMS PORTFOLIO PROGRAM TO ADDRESS OPIOID MISUSE AND ABUSE THROUGH AN INTERORGANIZATIONAL COLLABORATION

The ABMS Portfolio Program offers all types of health care organizations an opportunity to sponsor quality, performance, and process improvement initiatives (QI) that physicians can participate in to earn Improvement in Medical Practice (Part IV) credit for the ABMS Program for Continuing Certification.

Interorganizational Opioid Stewardship Collaborative

A collaboration of 30 Portfolio Program Sponsors are actively working on opioid-related improvements as part of their program portfolios. Seven Portfolio Program Sponsors are participating in an ABMS Portfolio Program workshop charged with identifying common strategies and resources that have been successfully implemented in Portfolio Sponsor organizations. One such project was a finalist for the inaugural ABMS Portfolio Program Outstanding Achievement in Quality Improvement Award. The interorganizational collaboration aims to:

• Advance the alignment and dissemination of common opioid-related strategies and resources.
• Provide Portfolio Sponsor access to a Quality Improvement (QI) template that includes key components, successful strategies, and resources identified through data review.
• Disseminate common strategies, resources and best practices that have impacted patient outcomes in other sponsor organizations.

LEVERAGING HEALTH POLICY AND EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES TO BUILD AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR CONTINUING CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS OPIOID MISUSE AND ABUSE

The ABMS Health Policy Team helps the Member Boards to understand the needs of their many stakeholders and respond to changes in the health care environment. In priority is to build awareness and support for the use of certification and to enhance the value that certification brings to physicians and external stakeholders. The ABMS Health Policy Team works collaboratively across the entire organization, with the ABMS Associate Members, and various external health care audiences to ensure that ABMS remains a national leader on matters related to quality and safety of medical specialty care.

ABMS Policy and Practice Interactive Webinar Series

This interactive webinar series presents the opportunity to build awareness of the value that certification brings to the direction of public policy to address the epidemic of opioid abuse and misuse to physicians and external stakeholders and ensures that ABMS addresses the ways that Member Boards and Societies can support appropriate pain management, risk mitigation, addiction treatment and referral.

The series through the webinar series thought leaders build awareness and support for additional recommendations from the National Academy of Medicine, the U.S. Surgeon General, and the Joint Committee on Continuing Education.

Conjoint Committee on Continuing Education

Several members of ABMS lead and support a participatory Multispecialty Continuing Education (CCE) Committee that is focused on national framing of the scope of medical practice and practice. The ABMS Committee is committed to expanding and enhancing the effectiveness of REMS-compliant education to ensure that clinicians are educated on pain management and the safe use of opioids.

Adaptive Learning Methodology

The ABMS Portfolio Program is focused on action-oriented learning, which involves adopting an adaptive learning methodology to meet the FDA REMS goals of reducing the risk of abuse, misuse, addiction, overdose and deaths due to opioid analgesics.

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