

September 15, 2017

Hospital
Chief Medical Officer
Address

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society's Opioid Task Force, I would like to thank you for your efforts in the fight against the Opioid Crisis. With your support, MedChi worked tirelessly this Session to establish common sense opioid treatment legislation. MedChi succeeded, but the fight is far from over. Governor Hogan has declared a state of emergency and asked for an "all-hands-on-deck approach" to end this crisis.

I am writing to ask you to help us continue our fight against the Opioid Crisis and review your automated controlled substance (e.g opioids, benzodiazepines, hypnotics, muscle relaxers, psychostimulants, etc.) standing orders within and throughout your electronic health record ordering systems. We ask that you reduce your standing orders to the minimum dosages and quantities necessary or remove any automated dosage and quantity in your electronic health record ordering system. We believe this small step will help prevent this epidemic from claiming yet another victim.

As you know, all physicians who prescribe opioids must be registered with the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) by July 1, 2017. This program monitors your opioid prescribing practices and compares you to colleagues in your specialty. While the Board of Physicians cannot mine the data, other parties like dispensers, insurers, and the Maryland PDMP program have access to and are actively tracking this information. If your prescription profile is considered an outlier to the standard of care, you could be reported to the Board of Physicians.

Your electronic health record system may populate "standing orders" automatically as options for recommended dosages. **Please review these standing orders.** Your standing orders should be the minimum dosages and quantities necessary or not have an automated minimum dosage or quantity. Work with your administrators, hospitals, or clinics to adjust standing orders that are higher than necessary or to remove the automatic feature. This small adjustment can help prevent your patients from receiving a higher dosage or quantity than necessary. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Opioid Crisis or Opioid Task Force, please contact MedChi at 410-539-0872 or yshapiro@medchi.org.

Thank you,

Gary Pushkin, MD
President-Elect 2016-2017
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society