
Healthcare Practitioner Alert: Medical Commission Suspends License of Seattle Pain Centers Medical Director

Overview

- The Washington State Medical Commission is taking action against Frank Li, MD for substandard care.
- This action impacts Seattle Pain Centers' eight clinics across Washington (Everett, Seattle, Renton, Tacoma, Poulsbo, Olympia, Vancouver, and Spokane) and potentially 25,000 patients.
- The Medical Commission is working with the Department of Health, the Health Care Authority, Office of the Insurance Commissioner and the represented professional associations and regulators to coordinate resources and minimize gaps in care for affected patients.

For Practitioners (MDs, DOs, PAs, ARNPs)

The Medical Commission has a website (<http://goo.gl/TEu1fg>) of resources dedicated to pain management and opioid use. **We encourage all practitioners to accept Seattle Pain Center patients under their care.** We are providing a list of resources on chronic opioid therapy for practitioners that may encounter affected patients.

- TelePain (<http://goo.gl/59NOMl>) provides consultation in the management of chronic pain problems.
- The University of Washington launched a psychiatry and addiction case conference series in July. For more information visit <https://goo.gl/uzsemd> or email UWpacc@uw.edu. CME is available.
- Consultation options are available at UW Pain Medicine (<http://goo.gl/EHDrML>).
- The Agency Medical Directors' Group guideline (<http://goo.gl/u6IewG>) and the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids (<http://goo.gl/SiLbUK>) provide recommendations for chronic opioid cases.
- The Washington Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) is a tool providers should use to monitor the total quantity of all controlled substances, including opioids, dispensed to a patient (<http://goo.gl/RljAZE>).

For Pharmacists

- For the safety of the patients, **please continue to honor prescriptions from these clinics.** Prescriptions from Dr. Li are valid if dated prior to July 15, 2016.
- If you question the validity of a prescription from these clinics, please contact the insurance plan or Pharmacy Commission (<http://goo.gl/xAFy0h>) for clarification before rejecting the prescription.

For Hospitals and Emergency Rooms

- Be prepared for an increase in patients who may be experiencing withdrawal from opioids, benzodiazepines or other controlled substances.
- Pain Medication Safety Guidelines in the Emergency Department are available at (<http://goo.gl/4WmS5A>).