

## **NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF PHARMACY STATEMENT CONCERNING USE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE REPORTING SYSTEM**

North Carolina has operated a Controlled Substance Reporting System (CSRS) since 2007. Its stated purpose is to “improve the State’s ability to identify controlled substance abusers or misusers and refer them for treatment, and to identify and stop diversion of prescription drugs in an efficient and cost-effective manner that will not impede the appropriate medical utilization of licit substances.” The CSRS is administered by the Drug Control Unit, which is a group housed in the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Pharmacists are authorized to access the CSRS and to use the data to inform their professional judgment and practice. In May 2013, and in response to complaints from pharmacists about the Drug Control Unit’s CSRS access application process, the Board worked with staff at the Drug Control Unit to build an electronic application portal. Pharmacists who are not registered to use the CSRS may access this link – <https://www.ncbop1.org/NCBOPCE> – log in using your pharmacist license number and PIN, select “CS Reporting” from the menu, and follow the prompts to complete and submit the CSRS application. More information and instruction may be found here: <http://www.ncbop.org/nccsrs.html>

Clinically appropriate prescribing, dispensing, and use of controlled substances are a critical public health and safety need. As key members of the health-care team, pharmacists bear a responsibility to help ensure appropriate prescribing, dispensing, and use of controlled substances. The CSRS is an important tool at pharmacists’ disposal.

As health-care professionals, pharmacists must exercise professional judgment and make reasonable use of patient information that is available to them. Typically, the clinical appropriateness of a controlled substance prescription cannot be assessed by CSRS report standing alone. Nor is rote CSRS review of all controlled substance prescribing and dispensing a practical contributor to improved public health and safety. But the CSRS can assist, and is intended to assist, a pharmacist in identifying potentially troubling prescriptions or prescribers. Indeed, the CSRS can assist a pharmacist’s assessment of a patient receiving potentially inappropriate controlled substance treatment that has nothing to do with “doctor shopping” or the like – for example, a patient seeing multiple specialists who are not communicating among each other.

Accordingly, the Board of Pharmacy expects pharmacists who dispense controlled substances or provide pharmacy services to patients who are treated with controlled substances to activate CSRS access and use the information available to them in an appropriate, professional manner. The Board of Pharmacy likewise expects pharmacies and other places of pharmacy practice to provide the tools and opportunity for pharmacists to access and use the CSRS readily.

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