

Vol. 5 No. 1



**Pain Management:
Prescribing Pearls
for Clinicians**
March 11

*Presented by:
Joshua D. Lenchus, DO*

**Webinars jointly provided by
FL PDMP Foundation & FMA**

1.5 CME credit per each
5:30-7:00PM

[Register now](#)

**Inform & Empower
Health Care Professionals
in the Implementation of
Evidence-Based Practices
for SUDs**
March 13

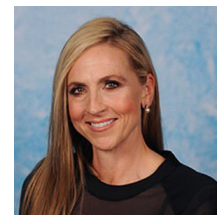


*Presented by:
Krithika Iyer, MD*



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In December 2024, the Florida PDMP Foundation in conjunction with the Florida Medical Association presented its two courses via webinars funded by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention through the Overdose Data to Action Grant (OD2A). The courses are offered each quarter of the 2024-2025 grant.



On December 3rd, the foundation, through its partner the FMA, offered the course “Pain Management: Prescribing Pearls of Wisdom”. The presenter was Dr. Joshua Lenchus, past-president of the Florida Medical Association and past-president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association. Dr. Lenchus is one of the leading speakers on opioid prescribing and has presented the mandatory two-hour opioid education course required by the Florida legislature for all health care licensed providers.

The second webinar titled "Inform & Empower Health Care Professionals in the Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices for Substance Use Disorders" was presented on December 5 by Dr. Krithika Iyer, a member of the Florida Psychiatric Society and chair of its addiction committee specializing in substance abuse disorders.

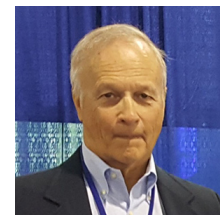
The courses are approved for 1.5 CE credit and will be presented each quarter of the grant cycle. They are also available for on-demand viewing through the Florida Medical Association and CE Broker websites. In addition, at the 2025 Florida Medical Association annual meeting in July the two courses will be presented live and will be offered again in March.

Foundation and E-FORCSE® staff provided outreach and educational programs to the attendees at the Florida Podiatric Medical Association SAM conference at the Coronado Springs Resort, Walt Disney World from January 29 to Feb 1, 2025. The staff will also attend the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association annual meeting at the Hyatt Grand Cypress Resort, Orlando on February 21-22, 2025.

[Lee Ann Brown, DO, received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from West Virginia University and completed her residency at Northwestern University. She is certified in physical medicine and pain management with a private practice in Clearwater. She is past president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association.]

Executive Director Update

The Florida PDMP Foundation and E-FORCSE ® staff attended the Florida Podiatric Medical Association SAM conference and are scheduled to be at the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association conference at the Hyatt Grand Cypress Resort in Orlando FL on February 21-22nd. Manning the Florida PDMP Foundation/E-FORCSE® booth are executive director Bob Macdonald, E-FORCSE® program manager John Felton and Torey Kennedy.



Foundation staff member Dr. Kelli Ferrell is collaborating with the FMA to present two webinars provided by the FL PDMP Foundation and FMA. She coordinates the dates with the FMA and the speakers, Drs. Lenchus and Iyer.

The staff has been busy completing the second quarter report for the OD2A Grant. The report is then presented to the Florida Department of Health grant manager for review with the CDC. It contains all the expenses incurred by the foundation to accomplish its contracted deliverables for the grant.

The Florida PDMP Foundation board of directors met by conference call in December. The board chaired by Lee Ann Brown, OD, Clearwater, includes the Hon. Al Nienhuis, vice chair, Sheriff of Hernando County, Brooksville, Samir Vakil, DPM, Secretary, Punta Gorda, Dr. Daniel Gesek, DMD, Director At-Large on the executive committee, Jacksonville, Dr. Nomen Azeem, MD, Director, Riverview, Kellyann Curnayn, DNP, APRN Director, Summerfield and Dr. Christopher Watson, MD, Director, Jacksonville.

[Mr. Macdonald, MS is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and received a master's in health planning and policy from the University of Cincinnati. He just completed a two-year term as consumer member on the Florida Board of Nursing and formerly served as a director on the staff of the Florida Dental Association].

Legal Corner with Jason D. Winn, Esq., General Counsel Florida PDMP Foundation



ADA and Physician Compliance with Deaf or Hard of Hearing Patients

Under the ADA, physicians are required to ensure effective communication with patients through reasonable accommodation, which may require the provision of an interpreter, unless the physician can demonstrate that this would result in significant difficulty or expense for the physician.

The ADA is a federal law, enforced by the Department of Justice, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, state and local government, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation, and telecommunications. The definition of “public accommodations” includes doctors’ offices.

Pursuant to this law, physicians are required to ensure, among other things, effective communication with people with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities. Achieving effective communication with people who are hearing impaired can, in some situations, require the use of a sign language interpreter. Family members and notes back and forth are not the most appropriate method of communication when discussing mental health issues, surgery, or complex medical diagnosis – in these cases an interpreter is the best practice.

For patients who are deaf or hard of hearing, providing an interpreter depends on ensuring effective communication. If a patient requests an interpreter, or if the provider or patient believes it would be beneficial to have one, the provider should arrange for an interpreter. The provider is responsible for covering this expense as a cost of doing business.

However, not every patient/doctor visit requires the use of interpreter. Whether they are required to provide an interpreter or not, depends on one variable – **COMMUNICATION**.

There are two controlling Federal Laws – the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The requirement for the healthcare provider is to have effective communication with the patient. Effective communication does not require an interpreter, and the key factual issue is whether other means may provide effective communication (i.e. Handwritten Notes passed back and forth or family members with the patient who can interpret; etc.). So, if the provider is able to effectively communicate with the patient without an interpreter, they may do so without violation of the Federal Laws. But, if they are unable to effectively communicate, then the ADA makes it a requirement that they provide an interpreter, at their own expense. This expense is **NOT ALLOWED** to be billed to the client – and will become a cost of doing business.

The Courts have held that providing adequate medical treatment is **NOT** a defense to a claim that the healthcare provider failed to provide effective communication under the Federal Laws.

[Jason Winn, Esq., Tallahassee, is a 1996 graduate of the University of Maryland and received his Juris Doctorate from Nova Southeastern University - Shepard Broad Law in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in 2000. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2001. Before opening his private law practice, he worked for the Assistant Public Defender in the Fifth Judicial Circuit. Mr. Winn currently serves as general counsel for the Florida PDMP Foundation, the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA), the Florida Podiatric Medical Association (FPMA) and the Florida Hearing Society. Mr. Winn, has recently joined the lobbying team at Lewis, Longman & Walker, as a Senior Attorney]

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WHAT'S TRENDING WITH PDMP?

Florida PDMP Monthly Trend:

Indicator Description	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	Jun 2024	Jul 2024	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024
# Opioid Prescriptions	927,366	916,026	956,915	906,449	921,855	944,316	956,930	874,827	931,711	924,295	864,680	939,182	870,109
# Benzodiazepine Prescriptions	706,386	693,603	733,998	690,220	704,155	722,440	729,187	668,897	718,344	706,088	668,003	721,466	663,129
# Stimulant Prescriptions	394,819	378,122	404,003	390,783	402,556	421,772	430,169	397,143	420,228	415,740	388,831	415,539	392,078
# Opioid Patients	717,561	711,721	735,558	709,423	717,085	731,258	729,745	689,801	710,645	710,902	679,716	714,730	685,856
# Benzodiazepine Patients	624,900	616,361	646,592	618,147	626,727	638,447	637,910	600,334	628,250	623,216	599,276	632,992	596,462
# Stimulant Patients	338,940	326,622	345,486	338,298	346,746	360,685	363,768	345,426	358,285	357,037	339,774	354,993	340,499
# Registered Users	28,024	28,950	30,077	30,996	31,895	32,811	33,688	34,987	36,557	37,795	39,229	40,332	41,199
# Patient Inquiries	4,259,703	4,083,299	4,395,859	4,128,626	4,158,927	4,316,804	4,320,234	4,020,931	4,398,201	4,293,761	4,026,767	4,367,255	4,062,451

FOUNDATION ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM CONTINUES

The Florida PDMP Foundation Annual Giving Program seeks yearly charitable contributions from supporters to help fund upgrades and enhancements for outreach and educational programs for the state PDMP. Tax-deductible contributions can be made directly to the Foundation on its website at: www.flpdmpfoundation.com/donations/.

Contributions can be made by credit card or by sending a check to: The Florida PDMP Foundation, Inc., 10801 Starkey Rd., #104-221, Seminole, FL 33777.

PDMP Foundation E-NEWS Contact Information:

If you have questions about any information that appears in this newsletter or the Foundation's activities in support of E-FORCSE[®], please contact Bob Macdonald, Executive Director, at executive.director@fldmpfoundation.com.

E-FORCSE[®] Contact Information:

For technical assistance, please call [1-877-719-3120](tel:1-877-719-3120). If you have questions specific to state policy, you may contact E-FORCSE[®] at [850-245-4797](tel:850-245-4797) or by e-mail at e-forcse@flhealth.gov.

To create an E-FORCSE[®] account, navigate to <https://florida.pmpaware.net> and click "Create an Account."



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