

Vol. 1 No. 2



**Pain Management:
Prescribing Pearls
for Clinicians**
December 3

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**
December 5

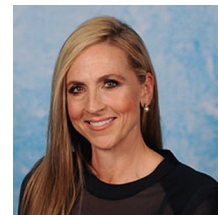


Presented by:
Krithika Iyer, MD



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Florida PDMP Foundation has had a very busy first quarter of its 2024-2025 fiscal year. Its main emphasis was developing continuing education program topics, content, speaker identification, production and presentation of two courses under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Overdose Data to Action Grant (OD2A). The foundation is partnering with the Florida Medical Association (FMA) on this grant educational project. The staff and foundation education committee developed the basic course content, identified the speakers and worked with the Florida Department of Health and the FMA on the production schedules and promotion.



The first webinar course was produced and titled "Pain Management: Prescribing Pearls of Wisdom" on September 30, 2024. 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 was held on October 29, 2024, titled "Inform & Empower Health Care Professionals in the Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices for Substance Use Disorders". Dr. Krithika Iyer, a member of the Florida Psychiatric Society and chair of its addiction committee specializing in substance abuse disorders, presented the course.

The courses are approved for 1.5 CE credit. They 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.

[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 ® staffs continue to work together on outreach and education programs to provide health care providers and law enforcement officials with updates on operation of the state's prescription drug monitoring program. The staff is preparing for the 2025 conference season which kicks off in January with the Florida Police Chiefs Association winter conference in Orlando followed by the Florida Podiatric Medical Association SAM conference at Coronado Springs, Walt Disney World. In February, the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association will hold its annual meeting in Orlando.



The foundation staff also coordinated with its CPA firm and an auditor for the completion of the 2023-2024 audit. As a Direct Support Organization to the Florida Department of Health a yearly audit is required. It is also forwarded to the Department's financial office, the Attorney General's Office and the Auditor General's Office.

As a sub-contractor organization to the FDOH under the CDC Overdose Data to Action Grant (OD2A) the foundation is required to give a quarterly report of all deliverables with expenses incurred. Funds are then reimbursed to the foundation from the CDC budget.

[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



What is Telehealth?

Florida Statute defines telehealth as “the use of synchronous or asynchronous telecommunications technology by a telehealth provider to provide health care services, including, but not limited to, assessment, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, and monitoring of a patient; transfer of medical data; patient and professional health-related education; public health services; and health administration.

The term does not include e-mail messages or facsimile transmissions..” (Florida Statute 456.47(1)(a) 2024).

A “telehealth provider” means any individual who provides health care and related services using telehealth and who is licensed or certified under s. 393.17; part III of chapter 401; chapter 457; chapter 458; chapter 459; chapter 460; chapter 461; chapter 463; chapter 464; chapter 465; chapter 466; chapter 467; part I, part III, part IV, part V, part X, part XIII, or part XIV of chapter 468; chapter 478; chapter 480; part I, part II, or part III of chapter 483; chapter 484; chapter 486; chapter 490; or chapter 491; who is licensed under a multistate health care licensure compact of which Florida is a member state; or who is registered under and complies with subsection (4) (F.S. 456.47(1)(b) 2021). All Florida licensees listed above can perform telehealth today, without any additional requirements.

Prior to 2023, telehealth explicitly precluded the use of audio-only telephone calls as a method of delivery telehealth services. Now, healthcare providers can use audio only telephone calls as a way to deliver healthcare services to their patients. However, all providers should adhere to the standard of care, regardless of the method of care being provided, the standard of care remains the same for in-person and telehealth patient visits.

The provider has a duty to practice in a manner consistent with his or her scope of practice and the within the prevailing professional standard for a health care professional who provides in person health care services to patients in this state. A telehealth provider may use telehealth to perform a patient evaluation. If the provider conducts a patient evaluation sufficient to diagnose and treat the patient, the telehealth provider is not required to research a patient’s medical history or conduct a physical examination of the patient before using telehealth to provide health care services to the patient.

While a telehealth provider can provide health care services to the patient, there is a limitation on prescribing medications for the patient. The law permits the prescribing of schedules III, IV & V listed in s. 893.03. THE LAW DOES NOT permit the use of telehealth to prescribe a schedule II controlled substance listed in s.893.03, unless the controlled substance is prescribed for the following:

1. The treatment of a psychiatric disorder;
2. Inpatient treatment at a hospital licensed under chapter 395;
3. The treatment of a patient receiving hospice services as defined in s. 400.601; or
4. The treatment of a resident of a nursing home facility as defined in s. 400.021.

For those providers that are out of the state of Florida, there is now the ability to be licensed in Florida as an Out-Of-State Telehealth Provider – its FREE! Any provider that would like the ability to treat Florida patients through telehealth, then simply apply for the telehealth certificate through the board office at the Department of Health.

<https://www.flhealthsource.gov/telehealth/files/application-telehealth-provider-registration.pdf> Remember, if you are licensed in Florida under is licensed or certified under s. 393.17; part III of chapter 401; chapter 457; chapter 458; chapter 459; chapter 460; chapter 461; chapter 463; chapter 464; chapter 465; chapter 466; chapter 467; part I, part III, part IV, part V, part X, part XIII, or part XIV of chapter 468; chapter 478; chapter 480; part I, part II, or part III of chapter 483; chapter 484; chapter 486; chapter 490; or chapter 491; who is licensed under a multistate health care licensure compact of which Florida is a member state; you already have the ability to treat patients through telehealth. If you are not currently licensed in Florida, you can apply for full licensure or apply for a telehealth certificate.

Finally, remember that your ability to treat patients through telehealth, either through full licensure or telehealth certificate, you can only treat patients located in Florida. It would not be permissible under the Florida laws to treat a patient located outside of Florida through telehealth. To treat a patient located outside of Florida through telehealth, you would need to comply with the laws of that state.

[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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HEALTH EDUCATOR REPORT

Current Continuing Education Programs

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) has entered into an agreement with the Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Foundation, Inc. (Foundation) to provide two specific educational deliverables under The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Overdose to Action in States (OD2A-S) grant. Each of these C.E. programs will be developed and presented each quarter during the Foundation's fiscal year. The Foundation has partnered with the Florida Medical Association (FMA) to produce and facilitate the presentation via various formats. These formats include scheduled live webinars, an on-demand format, made available via the FMA webpage and CE Broker, and subsequently, at an in-person presentation at the FMA Annual Meeting.



The curriculum for each of the two (2) continuing education (C.E.) training courses incorporate the principles of the CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain — United States, 2022, focusing on pain and screening and diagnosing substance use disorders, including opioid and stimulant use disorders. Major discussion topics related to twelve recommendations in the CDC Clinical Practice Guideline and the key goals and objectives are established in the course outline and curriculum. Some of the objectives of each C.E. training course are to examine the multiple means to improve communication between clinicians and patients about the benefits and risks of pain treatments; improve the effectiveness and safety of pain treatment; mitigate pain; improve function and quality of life for patients with pain; and reduce risks associated with opioid pain therapy, including opioid use disorder, overdose, and death.

The first C.E. course, *Pain Management: Prescribing Pearls for Clinicians*, presented by Dr. Joshua Lenchus, DO, is related to pain management for acute, sub-acute and chronic pain in out-patient settings. Joshua Lenchus, DO currently serves as Medical Director for Aetna. Dr. Lenchus has presented on opioids and controlled substances locally, regionally, and nationally. The second C.E. course, *Inform & Empower Health Care Professionals in the Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices for Substance Use Disorders*, presented by Dr. Krithika Iyer, MD, DFAPA, is focused on screening and diagnosis of substance abuse disorders, including opioid and stimulant use disorders. Dr. Iyer currently serves as Staff Psychiatrist with the Fort Lauderdale Behavioral Health Center and is a double board-Certified Adult and Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist.

Upon completion of the C.E. training courses, attendees will have learned how to apply the recommendations as adaptable standards of care to inform patient-centered decision-

making, considering an individual's well-being, and what may be expected to happen based on their health or medical conditions and health outcomes.

The courses are approved for 1.5 CE credit. They 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.

Future Seminars

Florida PDMP: Professional Development Seminar for Students in Health Care

To continue the ongoing role of the Foundation in its efforts to support E-FORCSE® outreach and education, a professional development seminar will be offered throughout the fiscal year. This educational program contributes to the growing body of knowledge surrounding prescription drug monitoring, aiming to inform future decision making of health care practitioners and enhance the effectiveness of tools like the Florida PDMP.

The targeted audience for this presentation will include students matriculating at Florida medical, nursing (ARPNs), dental, podiatry and pharmacy schools through planned partnerships with the respective Deans of each health care program to offer to their students at the recommended academic year.

The primary goal of this seminar is to ensure that future prescribers across different health care disciplines actively participate in monitoring and managing the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances to enhance patient safety and address concerns related to substance abuse. Our seminar aims to provide valuable insight into the growing body of information surrounding prescription drug monitoring and to enhance the effectiveness of such programs through increased awareness and utilization.

[Dr. Kelli W. Ferrell, RPh, MSc, PhD, currently serves as the Health Educator for the Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Foundation (PDMPF). Dr. Ferrell earned her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences from Florida A&M University (FAMU). She also has a Master of Science and a Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences with concentrations in Pharmacoeconomics and Health Outcomes Research, both from FAMU.]

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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