



PDMP FOUNDATION E-NEWSLETTER

Vol. 6 No. 3

“Safer Prescriptions. Stronger Communities.”

**WEBINARS PROVIDED BY
THE FLORIDA PDMP FOUNDATION AND FMA**

**1.5 hours CME credit per course
5:30-7:00pm EST**

Thursday, Feb 5, 2026

Register Now

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

During the second quarter of FY 2025-2026 the Florida PDMP Foundation continued to offer webinars on Opioid prescribing and SUD screening to health care practitioners in conjunction with the Florida Medical Association. These courses are funded by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Overdose Data to Action grant administered by the Florida Department of Health. On December 2, 2025, Dr. Debra Barnett presented the course on “Integrated Pain Management Evidence Based Therapies”. This course was followed on December 4th by Dr. Colleen Bell’s presentation on “Integrating SUD Screening Diagnosis into Your Practice”.



Dr. Barnett will also be presenting her course on February 6, 2026, as part of the program at the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association’s annual meeting in Ft. Lauderdale. She will also speak at the Florida Pain Society Spring Meeting in Orlando in April.

The foundation board of directors met via conference call on December 15th to approve funding for the enhancement of the state’s prescription drug monitoring program (E-FORCSE®). Funds were allocated to the FDOH for the Bamboo Bridge program whose core products surface pivotal moments and serve as triggers to initiate care navigation for

individuals with mental health and SUD conditions. The program's tech-enabled service bridges individuals to the care they need by engaging and navigating them to definitive assessment, treatment, and social services.

[Dr. Lee Ann Brown, DO, FAAPMR, currently serves as Acting Chair of the Florida PDMP Foundation Board of Directors. Dr. Brown 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 in cooperation with E-FORCSE® is preparing for the 2026 calendar year outreach and educational programs. The foundation and E-FORCSE® have assigned staff members to manage exhibit booths at various healthcare and law enforcement annual meetings to provide information to attendees about the state's prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP).



The new year schedule begins with the annual Florida Podiatric Medical Association SAM at the Coronado Springs Resort at Walt Disney World on January 29-Feb 1. On February 6-7th the staff will be exhibiting at the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Annual Meeting at the Harbor Beach Marriott in Ft. Lauderdale.

For the remainder of the fiscal year which ends June 30th, the foundation and E-FORCSE® staffs will be at the Florida Pain Society annual meeting at Sea World in Orlando on April 23-25 then on June 25-27 at the Florida Dental Convention at the Gaylord Palms, Kissimmee.

[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 served as a consumer member of the Florida Board of Nursing and was a director on the staff of the Florida Dental Association.]

Legal Corner with General Counsel of the PDMP Foundation

Jason D. Winn, Esq. of Lewis Longman & Walker



Florida's 2026 Legislative Session: What Health Care Professionals Need to Know

As Florida prepares to convene its 2026 Legislative Session from January 13 to March 13, lawmakers are poised to tackle a wide range of issues affecting health care providers, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and patients across the state. From scope-of-practice expansions to medical conscience protections, the session promises to shape the way Florida delivers care in the years ahead.

One of the key areas of focus this year is the regulation and autonomy of health care professionals. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), for example, may see significant changes under SB 138 / HB 301, which would allow APRNs to practice independently without physician supervision. Supporters argue this expansion will help meet the growing demand for behavioral health services, particularly in underserved areas. Similarly, HB 237 / SB 36 addresses the use of professional nursing titles, ensuring that doctoral-level nurses clearly communicate their credentials to patients and colleagues, strengthening professional accountability.

The legislature is also considering expansions for other health professions. HB 363 would establish licensure and reimbursement rules for dental therapists, including the operation of mobile dental units under Medicaid. Proponents highlight this as a critical step toward increasing access to dental care in communities where traditional dental services are limited. Meanwhile, workforce mobility remains a priority, with bills like HB 13 / HB 15 advancing interstate licensure compacts for social workers, making it easier for licensed professionals to practice across state lines. These initiatives build on Florida's participation in other compacts, including those for physician assistants, EMTs, and APRNs, reflecting a broader commitment to enhancing the state's health care workforce.

However, with the recent data from [OPAGGA](#) showing the impact compacts are having on the workforce in Florida showing no positive net impact. There are 17 health care compacts in the US, Florida has passed legislation to join 6, but only 3 are active – Nursing, Psychology, and MD/DO; the three not yet active are: Counseling, Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology and Physical Therapy. OPPAGA did not find reliable evidence to support claims that health care compacts reduce workforce shortages and increase access to providers.

Pharmacy and drug policy are also on the agenda. HB 697 seeks to increase transparency in drug pricing and curb excessive out-of-pocket costs by requiring manufacturers to report international prices and capping cash pharmacy charges at reference prices. The bill also imposes restrictions on pharmacy benefit managers to ensure fairer pricing and patient access. To date the 2026 session has yet to see new collaborative pharmacy practice bills.

The Florida House on Tuesday December 9, 2025, unveiled a legislative healthcare package for the upcoming legislative session that would overhaul Medicaid and SNAP eligibility, expand provider workforce authority, and impose new controls on prescription drug pricing and pharmacy benefit managers. House Speaker Daniel Perez said the

initiative, referred to as “Florida’s New Frontier in Healthcare,” is designed to align state policy with recent federal healthcare changes under President Donald Trump.

This legislation is all encompassing for healthcare - the package includes two primary measures: HB695 Pub. Rec./Health Care: Provides exemptions from public meetings requirements for certain portions of meetings of Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice & Physician Assistant Licensure Compact Commission; HB693 - the Big Beautiful Healthcare Frontier Act, sponsored by Rep. Mike Redondo; and, HB697 the Prescription Reduction Incentives and Competition Enhancement Act, known as the PRICE Act, sponsored by Rep. Kincart Jonsson.

The Big Beautiful Healthcare Frontier Act would revise eligibility and oversight rules for Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The bill would limit eligibility for certain immigrants who are in the country illegally, reduce retroactive Medicaid and CHIP coverage to two months, and codify federal prohibitions on Medicaid payments to barred entities.

The measure also includes several healthcare workforce and deregulatory provisions. It would repeal remaining Certificate-of-Need requirements for nursing homes, hospice providers and intermediate care facilities serving individuals with developmental disabilities. Florida would join interstate licensure compacts for physician assistants and emergency medical services workers. The bill would authorize independent practice for all five advanced registered nurse specialties, remove supervisory limits on physician assistants and expand the scope of practice for dental hygienists.

Medical conscience and patient rights remain prominent topics as well. SB 782 / HB 681, known as the Health Care Freedom Act, reinforces providers’ rights to refuse participation in services that conflict with their moral or religious beliefs while requiring health entities to clearly communicate which services they may not provide. These protections, building on the existing Protections of Medical Conscience Act, continue to frame discussions around reproductive care, gender-affirming treatments, and end-of-life decision-making in Florida.

Other notable measures include HB 369, which clarifies the execution and storage of patient-directed medical orders, including telehealth provisions, and SB 68 / HB 355, which updates emergency department standards and preparedness protocols. SB 40 proposes changes to Medicaid provider contracts, ensuring clearer definitions of service availability and access standards for patients.

Another major policy debate expected to dominate the 2026 Florida Legislative Session isn’t directly related to health care but will have significant economic and political implications for all Floridians: property tax reform. Lawmakers in the Florida House have already unveiled an unprecedented slate of proposals aimed at cutting or even eliminating non-school property taxes on homesteaded residences — the portion of property tax that funds most local government services outside of public education. Among the measures under consideration is HJR 201, which would amend the state constitution to exempt

homestead property from all non-school ad valorem taxes, while others would phase out such taxes over a decade, offer special exemptions for seniors, or expand homestead breaks tied to property insurance status. If passed by the Legislature with the required supermajority, these constitutional amendments would go on the November 2026 ballot, where 60 % voter approval would be needed to enact them into law. But even as the House advances these proposals through committee, Governor Ron DeSantis has urged lawmakers to put forward a single, “bold” amendment rather than multiple competing measures, framing the debate as one of clarity and effectiveness for voters. The push for property tax relief has stirred intense discussion about local government funding and service impacts, with estimates suggesting significant revenue shortfalls for counties and cities if broad exemptions are adopted. As a result, property tax reform is shaping up to be one of the most closely watched and potentially contentious policy arenas of the upcoming session.

As the session unfolds, these bills and discussions will have a tangible impact on Florida’s health care landscape — influencing everything from workforce deployment to patient access, professional autonomy, and health system transparency. Health care professionals, insurers, and patients alike will want to track developments closely to understand how new legislation might shape practice, care delivery, and regulatory responsibilities in the coming years.

[Jason Winn is a Senior Attorney and registered lobbyist at Lewis Longman & Walker practicing in the areas of administrative, civil, legislative, and governmental affairs. An accomplished speaker, Winn frequently lectures across Florida on the laws and rules impacting health care practitioners. He has served as general counsel for the Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, Florida Podiatric Medical Association, the Sheriff’s Offices in Gadsden and Wakulla, and the Florida Hearing Society of which he is also the Executive Director.]

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HEALTH EDUCATOR REPORT

PDMP Foundation CE Programs

2025-2026 OD2A-S Grant Year: PDMP Foundation CE Training



Programs



For the 2025-2026 OD2A-S grant year, the PDMP Foundation has developed four Continuing Education (CE) training programs focused on the CDC Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain, 2020. These live and hybrid webinar course formats were created in collaboration with the Florida Medical Association and the Florida PDMP.

The courses, presented by Dr. Debra Barnett, *MD, DFAPA* and Dr. Colleen Bell, *MD, FACHE, DFAPA*. Dr. Barnett's session, "Integrated Pain Management: Evidence-based Therapies," and Dr. Bell's session, "Integrating SUD Screening & Diagnosis," have attracted strong attendance and provided extensive information on opioid screening and prescribing.

Upcoming Presentations

Dr. Barnett is scheduled to present her course on Integrated Pain Management at the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) Live Convention on Friday, February 6th from 3:30 – 5pm. Please visit the FOMA website for more details.

Dr. Bell will be presenting her course on Integrating SUD Screening and Diagnosis, via webinar on Thursday, February 5th from 5:30 – 7pm. Please remember to register for the webinar at the link in the banner message above.

Feedback gathered from these well-received sessions will help guide the development of future educational offerings, ensuring that the programs remain relevant and impactful.

Professional Development Seminar Series

The Foundation has launched Florida's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) – A Professional Development Seminar for Medical Residents, along with a version for healthcare students in Florida's medical, nursing (ARPN), dental, podiatry, and pharmacy schools. The seminar details have been shared with residency programs and school deans across Florida. Promotional materials have been developed to support outreach, and feedback is being collected to determine the best year for participant involvement.

The inaugural seminar in the series for Medical Residents is scheduled for late February at Lakeland Regional Health. Attendees will include PGY1 to PGY3 residents, along with invited fellows representing multiple specialties.

We are pleased to have Rebecca Poston, BPharm, MHL, and former PDMP Program Manager, as our seminar speaker. Her expertise and insights will benefit all attendees.

[Dr. Kelli W. Ferrell 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.]

DID YOU KNOW?

Update from The Florida PDMP (E-Force)

We are pleased to inform everyone about an upcoming enhancement to the Florida Prescription Monitoring Program (E-FORCSE) reports that will provide valuable insights into Non-Fatal Overdose Events (NFOD). With a release date targeting mid-June 2025, Florida practitioners will notice a new state indicator on patient reports within the E-FORCSE system.

State Indicators (1)

! Patient has experienced a non-fatal overdose event. A history of drug overdose is not reflected in the Overdose Risk Score.

Details

Non-Fatal Drug Overdose Events i Info

Event History e 1Y 2Y ALL

10/24/2023 21:15

Opium - accidental (unintentional)	T400X1A
Heroin - undetermined	T401X4A
Other narcotics - accidental (unintentional)	T40691A
Other drugs - undetermined	T50994A

Furthermore, an additional section titled "Other Health Information" will be available on the patient report through PMP AWARE and PMP Gateway, providing comprehensive details concerning NFOD events.

58 Refine Search

Date of Birth: Recent Address: View Linked Records (1) ▾

NarxCare®

Report generated on 04/16/2025. Report Date Range: 04/16/2021 - 04/15/2025

UNINTENTIONAL OVERDOSE RISK SCORE MODEL

Below Average 000

NARCOTICS	SEDATIVES	STIMULANTS
000	000	000
ACTIVE RX 0	ACTIVE RX 0	ACTIVE RX 0

KEY CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO OVERDOSE RISK SCORE MODEL

History of MOUD use (excluding Buprenorphine dispensations for pain management) No

Number of high-risk dispensations in most recent year 0

Gender most frequently reported by pharmacies is male No

Age most frequently reported by pharmacies 0

Number of pharmacies where narcotics/sedatives were filled in most recent year 0

Benzo - Narcotics overlap 0 Days

State Indicators (2)

! Patient has experienced a non-fatal overdose event. A history of drug overdose is not reflected in the Overdose Risk Score.

State Indicator will appear when a patient has a non-fatal overdose event.

Contact the Bamboo Health Knowledge/Help Center » Other Resources

Other Health Information

Non-Fatal Drug Overdose Events i Info

Event History e 1Y 2Y ALL

10/24/2023 21:15

Opium - accidental (unintentional)	T400X1A
Heroin - undetermined	T401X4A
Other narcotics - accidental (unintentional)	T40691A
Other drugs - undetermined	T50994A

» Resources (2)

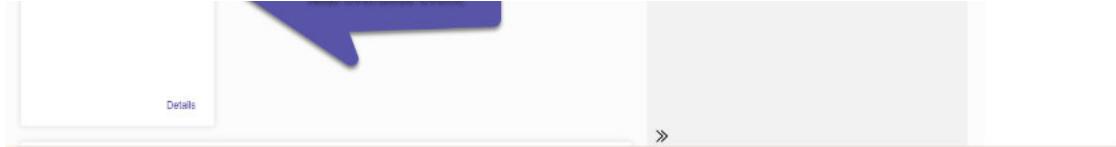
Link to Additional Resources

Toggle Event History (Up to 4 Years)

ICD-10 Code

ICD-10 Code Description

Admit Date & Time



The non-fatal overdose information included in the E-FORCSE report is sourced from the Florida Health Information Exchange. The NFOD event details that will be displayed in the E-FORCSE reports via the "Other Health Information" tile includes:

- Admit Date
- Facility Name
- Facility City
- Zip code
- ICD-10 code
- ICD-10 description

We believe that this enhancement will significantly contribute to the state of Florida patient care and management efforts by providing comprehensive information on NFOD events. The non-fatal drug overdose event indicator is intended to aid, not replace, medical decision making. The information should not be used as the sole justification for providing or not providing medications. For more information about the indicator, please visit to review the quick reference guide: [OD Insights - Non-Fatal Overdose Indicator](#) .

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 Maggie Thigpen, Communications Specialist, at margaret.thigpen@flpdmpfoundation.com.

E-FORCSE® Contact Information:

For technical assistance, please call [1-877-719-3120](tel:18777193120). If you have questions specific to state policy, you may contact E-FORCSE® at [850-245-4797](tel:8502454797) or by e-mail at e-force@flhealth.gov.

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



The Florida PDMP Foundation produced this course with funding through the Cooperative Agreement Number NU17CE010222-01-01 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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