

# Substance Use Disorder in the Pharmacist: A State-by-State Analysis

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**DEVELOPMENTS  
IN PHARMACY LAW  
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# Conflict of Interest Disclosure

- I declare that neither I nor any immediate family member have a current affiliation or financial arrangement with any potential sponsor and/or organization(s) that may have a direct interest in the subject matter of this presentation.



# Learning Objectives

- At the completion of this activity, the participant will be able to:
  - Describe the purpose and mission of PRN (Pharmacists Recovery Network)
  - Learn which states do not have a PRN program
  - Identify problematic language addressing mental health conditions
  - Discuss the variances between states when approaching the topic of substance use disorder in a pharmacist



# Assessment Questions

1. Alaska does NOT have a PRN program for pharmacists.
  - a) True
  - b) False
2. Which state requires opioid education as part of the school of pharmacy's program?
  - a) Florida
  - b) Pennsylvania
  - c) West Virginia



# PRN (Pharmacists Recovery Network)

- Separate, non-profit entity that is independent from the state board of pharmacy
- The mission of the program is to promote the early identification, intervention, rehabilitation, monitoring and successful re-entry of recovering pharmacist, interns, and pharmacy technicians into the profession.
  - Usually also a similar program for other healthcare professionals such as physicians and nurses
  - Works with the board to reintegrate the healthcare professional



# PRN continued...

- [Www.usaprн.org](http://www.usaprн.org)
- Each state has a PRN program that monitors pharmacists EXCEPT for Alaska
  - Alaska does have a program for physicians and physician assistants



# Arizona (-)

- A pharmacist or pharmacy intern is subject to **disciplinary action** by the board for any of the following:
  - (2) The licensee is found by psychiatric examination to be mentally unfit to practice the profession of pharmacy.
  - (3) The licensee is found to be physically or mentally incapacitated to such a degree as to render the licensee unfit the profession of pharmacy.



# Arkansas (+)

- It is the policy of the State of Arkansas to encourage and contribute to the rehabilitation of criminal offenders and to assist them in the assumption of the responsibilities of citizenship.
- The public is best protected when offenders are given the opportunity to secure employment or to engage in a meaningful trade, occupation, or profession.



# Delaware (+)

- The Delaware Fair Chance Licensing Act provides that it is the policy of this State to allow entry to professions and occupations with licensing requirements for individuals with a criminal history to the maximum extent consistent with public safety.
- The bill provides a process whereby an individual may submit an inquiry to the Division of Professional Regulation regarding whether their criminal history would be disqualifying for a particular license.



# Florida (-)

- In addition to barring against licensure for discipline history and/or criminal history, Florida will also inquiry about OIG exclusions and Medicaid program termination.
- Effective July 2012, Florida Statute provides that health. Care boards or the department **shall** refuse to issue a license, certification or registration and **shall** refuse to admit a candidate for examination.



# Nevada (+/-)

- Mental illness: Immediate suspension of right to practice. The adjudication of insanity or mental illness, or the voluntary commitment or admission to any hospital for a mental illness of any certificate holder, shall operate as an immediate suspension of the right of the certificate holder to practice pharmacy in this State, and such suspension shall continue until restoration to or declaration of sanity or mental competence.



# Ohio (+)

- Pharmacist duty to report requirements
- A licensee that seeks out care for a mental health condition *other than one related to substance use disorder* is not required to self-report under the rule.



# Pennsylvania (+)

- Verification of opioid education completed as part of an ACPE-accredited school of pharmacy's Pharm.D. or B.S. in Pharmacy program
  - This is a required form to accompany an initial pharmacist licensure application.
  - Applicant is required to have completed at least 2 hours of education in pain management or the identification of addiction and 2 hours of education in the practices of prescribing or dispensing of opioids.



# Texas (+)

- Differentiates between drug-related offenses that were for personal use versus not for personal use.
  - Personal use: PRN program + probation
  - Not personal use: suspension + probation



# Assessment Questions – Answers

1. Alaska does NOT have a PRN program for pharmacists.
  - a) **True**
  - b) False
2. Which state requires opioid education as part of the school of pharmacy's program?
  - a) Florida
  - b) **Pennsylvania**
  - c) West Virginia

