



Vermont Prescription Drug Monitoring System Medical Affairs Committee

Purpose

The VPMS Medical Affairs Committee is a group of health care professionals, selected for their professional clinical expertise, to advise the VPMS Advisory Committee and the Department of Health on issues related to the prescription and dispensing of controlled substances, the referral of patients to appropriate treatment and/or rehabilitation services, and, in broad terms, the behavior of health care providers as relates to controlled substances.

Membership

- Donald Swartz, MD - Medical Director, VT Department of Health (Chair)
- Todd Mandell, MD - ADAP Medical Director
- Zail Berry, MD - Specialty Practitioners (Medical/Surgical) – Oncologist, Palliative Care, Pain Management
- Steve Leffler, MD - Emergency Medical Physicians
- Margaret Caudill-Slosberg - Physician Instructor, Pain Management Center
- Jennifer Laurent, FNP - Nurse Practitioner
- Jeffrey Crandall, DDS - Dentist
- Thea Yates, RPh- Pharmacist
- Halle Sobel, MD– Primary Care Internal Medicine
- Rick Baum, DVM- Veterinarian

Role

The Medical Affairs Committee provides advice on clinical issues, including:

- The setting of “Threshold Report” screening levels. Threshold procedures are used to scan the data base for records that are suggestive of uncoordinated care or prescription drug misuse.
- Guidelines for the release of patient information to a health care provider or dispenser.
- Guidelines for the release of patient information directly to the patient or patient representative.
- Recommend actions the Department might take to achieve reductions in the rates of addiction to and abuse of controlled substances.
- Circumstances in which a “serious and imminent threat to a person or the public” might exist which the Commissioner of Health would need to report to the Commissioner of Public Safety.
- Circumstances that would rise to the level of “fraudulent or illegal activity by a health care provider” which the Commissioner should report to the relevant licensing or certification authority.
- Assess the overall clinical effectiveness of the VPMS.

Frequency of Meetings

During the initial database development and implementation phase, the Committee may meet once a month. Once the core clinical policies and procedures are set, the Committee is likely to meet less frequently – perhaps quarterly. In addition, individual members with particular clinical expertise may be asked for their advice on specific medical questions from time-to-time. However, in no case will a member of the Committee be expected to conduct a “Peer Review” analysis of the activities of an individual, named, provider. The Committee generally meets at the call of the chair.