

Prescribers Must Consult CURES Beginning Oct. 2, 2018

The California Department of Justice (DOJ) has issued an [announcement](#) certifying CURES is ready for statewide use as of April 2, 2018. Pursuant to [Health and Safety Code section 11165.4\(e\)](#), beginning Oct. 2, 2018, certain health care practitioners must consult CURES before prescribing a Schedule II, III or IV controlled substance

- for the first time, and
- at least every four months thereafter, if the controlled substance remains part of the patient's treatment plan.

The requirement to consult CURES applies to health care practitioners who are authorized to prescribe, order, administer or furnish controlled substances, including:

- dentists
- physicians
- naturopathic doctors
- optometrists
- osteopathic doctors
- physician assistants
- podiatrists
- registered certified nurse midwives (furnishing)
- registered nurse practitioners (furnishing)

The requirement does not apply to pharmacists or veterinarians.

The [Medical Board of California](#) (MBC) has created a [CURES webpage](#) with information and resources to help prescribers comply with the new requirement. The MBC also has created a [flyer](#) that discusses when prescribers must consult CURES and exemptions to the requirement.

The DOJ provides information about CURES registration, user guides and frequently asked questions at www.oag.ca.gov/cures. For questions about CURES or training requests, contact DOJ staff at CURES@doj.ca.gov or (916) 210-3187.

The Board of Pharmacy provides resources and links to websites related to CURES at www.pharmacy.ca.gov/licensees/cures.

Although they are not required to consult CURES, pharmacists are using the database regularly to prevent the diversion and abuse of controlled substances. As of March 31, 2018, pharmacists made up 24 percent of all health care providers registered to use CURES. Pharmacists also ran 57 percent of all patient activity reports that were reviewed in CURES in March 2018.

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