



MEMORANDUM

DATE	September 23, 2024
TO	Veterinary Medical Board (Board)
FROM	Jeffrey Olguin, Administration Analyst
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 26.D. Outreach

Update to Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES)

On July 30, 2024, the Board provided information to its email subscribers that beginning August 1, 2024, dispensers must report dispensations to CURES using 4.2B of the American Society for Automation in Pharmacy (ASAP) format.

Subscribers were provided with information on how to reduce data issues during the transition period (July 31, 2024 through August 2, 2024) and were advised to monitor their data submissions during that time. In addition, subscribers were provided resources, including a guide, descriptions of the ASAP 4.2B changes, frequently asked questions (FAQ), information on how to purchase the drug monitoring program through the ASAP, and information from the California Department of Justice.

New Board Member Announcement—Steven Manyak Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)

On August 7, 2024, the Board provided information to its email subscribers about the announcement of Governor Gavin Newsom’s appointment of Steven Manyak, DVM, to the Board. Dr. Manyak has been President and Lead Veterinarian at Pine Animal Hospital, Inc. since 2012. He was an Associate Veterinarian at Rose City Veterinary Hospital from 2010 to 2011. Dr. Manyak was a Veterinary Assistant with Advanced Critical Care, Los Angeles in 2008. He is Board Chair of The Veterinary Cooperative. Dr. Manyak earned a DVM degree from the Western University of Health Sciences and a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology from the University of California, Davis.

Subject Matter Expert (SME) Recruitment—Cardiologists and Neurologists

On August 7, 2024 and September 9, 2024, the Board distributed information to its email subscribers requesting interested California licensed veterinarians to apply to serve as SMEs for the Board’s Enforcement Program. Licensees who were interested in becoming an SME were informed of the important role SMEs provide for consumer protection and that they would be reimbursed for the services they provide.

Inspector Recruitment

On August 7, 2024 and September 9, 2024, the Board distributed information to its email subscribers requesting interested individuals apply to serve as inspectors for the Board's Enforcement Program. As part of the recruitment, licensees were informed of the application, reference, and selection criteria requirements, and that the role would be working with the California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA's), Division of Investigation or other law enforcement agencies to visit veterinary premises to ensure locations are meeting the minimum standards required under the California Veterinary Medicine Practice Act.

Administration of General Anesthesia—Reminder for Veterinarians

On August 7, 2024, the Board reminded its veterinarians that within 12 hours prior to the administration of a general anesthetic, an animal patient shall be given a physical examination appropriate for the procedure. Licensees were provided the required standards related to anesthesia with a link to [California Code of Regulations \(CCR\), title 16, section 2032.4](#).

Inspection Webinar

On August 16, 2024, the Board reminded its email subscribers of a free Inspection Webinar on August 20, 2024. The Inspection Webinar was a collaboration between the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Board. The DEA informed attendees of the DEA regulations and recordkeeping requirements for veterinarians. In addition, the Board provided information about the inspection process, examples of the most common violations, and ways to correct those issues. As a result of the 2-hour webinar, the Board issued 327 continuing education (CE) certificates to eligible attendees.

Unlicensed Practice Stakeholder Meeting

On August 21, 2024, the Board notified its email subscribers that it was considering ways to clarify the veterinary medicine licensure exemptions under [Business and Professions Code \(BPC\) section 4827](#) and enhance unlicensed practice penalties under BPC sections [4875.2](#), [148](#), and [CCR, title 16, section 2043](#), to decrease unlicensed practice and prevent unintended consequences.

The Board began hosting a series of one-hour stakeholder meetings to seek input from the veterinary community on Monday, September 16, 2024, which focused on equine unlicensed practice.

RACEtrack Update

On August 21, 2024, the Board notified its email subscribers that it will no longer utilize RACEtrack, a CE tracking service provided by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) through CE Broker, to verify attendance when conducting CE audits. Licensees were encouraged to upload CE certificates in [BreEZe](#) upon license or registration renewal. This optional feature allows licensees to bypass many of the steps

necessary in the CE audit process. If licensees upload all of their CE certificates in BreEZe during renewal and are subsequently selected for an audit, the Board will simply verify all of the certificates met the statutory and regulatory CE requirements prior to contacting the licensee. If the CE certificates satisfy the requirements, the licensee will receive a notification that they were selected for an audit, they met the requirements, and the audit was successfully completed.

Veterinary Shortage Areas: Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

On September 16, 2024, the Board provided its email subscribers with information from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA's) Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship (AUS) program about their outreach to the livestock sector to identify geographic regions that are experiencing gaps in large animal veterinary services in California.

Individuals who were interested in the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA)'s National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) [2024/2025 VMLRP](#) were informed that the program aims to provide an incentive for veterinarians to practice in areas currently in need of additional veterinary expertise within large animal private practice and the public sector. Awardees committing to at least three years of service in a selected practice area may receive up to \$25,000 per year from USDA NIFA, totaling \$75,000 over three years, along with tax assistance, to offset veterinary education loan debts.

Veterinarians who were interested in applying were provided with information on how to apply and to encourage veterinarians to apply for the program by responding to the CDFA's request by October 1, 2024.