



Paul R. LePage
Governor

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF PHARMACY
35 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0035

Anne L. Head, Esq.
Commissioner

Geraldine L. Betts
Administrator

To: Maine Board of Pharmacy Licensees

From: Joseph Bruno, R.Ph., Board President and Members of the Board

Date: February 16, 2016

At its February 4, 2016 board meeting, the Board agreed to share Attorney General Janet Mills' message on the heroin and opioid abuse in Maine. The Board feels that we need to fight this epidemic together from all angles and we strongly encourage you to read this message.

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February 3, 2016

Joseph Bruno, R.Ph., President
Maine Board of Pharmacy
35 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0035

Dear Mr. Bruno:

The scourge of heroin and opioid abuse is an extraordinary crisis requiring an all hands on deck approach.

I need not recite the statistics, the anecdotes or the obituaries.

No one group or sector is the cause of the problem or the source of the cure; nor will the problem be solved by a single act, a single piece of legislation or one government fiat. But your Board and its members can be part of the solution by reining in the proliferation of opioid painkillers in our state, now tallying more than a million prescriptions each year.

I urge you and your fellow pharmacists to check the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program before dispensing opioids. Checking the PDMP is faster and easier than ever. I also urge you to post and distribute the enclosed warning I have drafted regarding the use and diversion of narcotics.

Thank you in advance for your full cooperation in this matter.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet T. Mills'.

Janet T. Mills
Attorney General

cc: Geraldine Betts, Board Director
Enclosure – Warning for Narcotic Drugs

WARNING FOR NARCOTIC DRUGS

TAKE ONLY AS DIRECTED.

KEEP THIS DRUG IN A SECURE PLACE.

DO NOT LET ANYBODY ELSE USE THESE DRUGS FOR ANY REASON.

Allowing other people to take your prescription drugs is a crime.

Mixing this drug with alcohol or with some other drugs can make you sick.

Taking more of this drug than you're supposed to can make you sick or make you addicted.

Allowing other people to take these drugs can make them sick or feed an addiction that can kill them.

Keeping your prescription drug outside of the prescription bottle can be unlawful.

Deceiving your health care provider in order to get these drugs is a crime, including using a false name or address or failing to tell your health provider when asked about other similar prescriptions you have received from somebody else in the last 30 days.

Driving under the influence of prescription drugs is a crime.

**GET RID OF EXCESS DRUGS BY CALLING YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT.
Drug take-back programs are available in your community.**

Selling these drugs is a serious crime!

If you have *any* questions about this drug, ask your pharmacist or your doctor.

**Office of the Attorney General
Drug Task Force
Janet T. Mills Attorney General**