



MEDICAL MINUTE *with* **IDFPR**

Quarterly Newsletter

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation



SUMMER 2024

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SCAM ALERT: FAKE INVESTIGATORS TARGETING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

The FBI has identified an increase in financial fraud schemes where scammers target healthcare professionals by posing as state investigators or federal agents. The scammers call their targets and send letters on fake agency letterhead, claiming their target's license is under investigation or suspended. The scammers then ask for personal information and/or monetary payment to "reactivate" the "suspended" license.

IDFPR does not communicate with licensees this way if their license is under investigation or suspended. All IDFPR enforcement communication with licensees is done through certified mail or email from an Illinois.gov account. Law enforcement officers, Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") agents, and medical board staff will never contact physicians by telephone to demand money or any other form of payment. If you receive one of these calls, refuse the demand for payment. If the caller claims they are from the DEA, immediately report the threat online at <https://www.dea.gov/scam-alert>.

In addition, you can confirm the status of your license by using IDFPR's licensing lookup tool: <https://online-dfpr.micropact.com/lookup/licenselookup.aspx>.

SCAM ALERT: FAKE IDFPR INVESTIGATORS



IDFPR uses a deliberate enforcement process. It **does not suspend licenses** by sending a letter or over the phone.



Investigators **will never call someone and demand** a social security number and/or monetary payment.



Never give your credit card number or personal identifying information over the phone if you did not initiate the call.



Be wary of callers who try to intimidate you into making a quick decision or ask you to "act immediately."



IDFPR



COSMETOLOGIST AND ESTHETICIAN PROHIBITED PRACTICES

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Professional Regulation, frequently receives inquiries regarding whether certain procedures can be performed by a cosmetologist or an esthetician within the scope of their licensure. While the Department does not issue “advisory opinions” or dispense legal advice, the public’s interest in these procedures merits this statement from the Department. Parties seeking a legal opinion should consult with their own attorney.

Cosmetologists and estheticians are prohibited from using any technique, product, or practice intended to affect the living layers of the skin. (Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding and Nail Technology Act of 1985; 225 ILCS 410/3-1 and 410/3A-1.) The following procedures constitute the practice of medicine (with the exception of colonics provided there is no representation of health benefits and microblading) and are not within the scope of practice of a cosmetologist or an esthetician:

- Botox;
- Chemical peels;
- Collagen injections;
- Colonics;
- Liposuction;
- Microdermabrasion, except superficial or light microdermabrasion intended to only remove dead skin cells, oil, and other debris from the surface of the skin;
- Dermaplaning;
- Microblading;
- Microneedling;
- Radio Frequency; and
- Hydrafacial machine treatment.

In the event that any of the above procedures are delegated by a licensed physician, an individual may not represent themselves as a cosmetologist or an esthetician while performing the delegated procedure. An individual may not indicate in any manner that any such procedure delegated by a licensed physician is part of the practice of cosmetology or esthetics. The person receiving the services must be a patient of the physician (there must be a physician/patient relationship), the physician must examine the patient and determine the appropriateness and the course of treatment, and the person receiving the physician delegation must carry out the treatment as instructed.

UTILIZING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN CLINICAL PRACTICE



The Federation of State Medical Board's ("FSMB") House of Delegates recently released a memo titled, "Navigating the Responsible and Ethical Incorporation of Artificial Intelligence into Clinical Practice." The memo, while attempting to define artificial intelligence ("AI") in the healthcare space, reviews the use of such technology with an eye towards education, accountability, informed consent, data privacy, equity and bias. The memo encourages appropriate oversight and regulation and provides guidance for incorporation.

FSMB's House of Delegates explains that the clinical systems and processes making use of AI need to be continually monitored and refined and need not occur in a vacuum, but instead should be a focus of the collaborative efforts among physicians, health systems, data scientists, and regulatory agencies, including state medical boards. The memo states, "By thoughtfully addressing the opportunities and challenges posed by AI in healthcare, state medical boards can promote the safe, effective, and ethical use of AI as a tool to enhance, but generally not replace, human judgment and accountability in medical practice."

To read the full memo, please use the following link: <https://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/advocacy/policies/incorporation-of-ai-into-practice.pdf>.



CONSUMER ALERT: COMPOUNDED WEIGHT LOSS DRUGS

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) has received adverse event reports after patients used compounded semaglutide. Patients should not use a compounded drug if an approved drug is available to treat a patient. Patients and health care professionals should understand that the agency does not review compounded versions of these drugs for safety, effectiveness, or quality.

Additionally, the FDA has received reports that in some cases, compounders may be using salt forms of semaglutide, including semaglutide sodium and semaglutide acetate. The salt forms are different active ingredients than is used the approved drugs, which contain the base form of semaglutide. The agency is not aware of any basis for compounding using the salt forms that would meet the FD&C requirements for types of active ingredients that can be compounded.

What should patients know about compounded semaglutide drugs?

Patients should be aware that some products sold as ‘semaglutide’ may not contain the same active ingredient as FDA-approved semaglutide products and may be the salt formulations. Products containing these salts, such as semaglutide sodium and semaglutide acetate, have not been shown to be safe and effective.

Patients should only obtain drugs containing semaglutide with a prescription from a licensed health care provider, and only obtain medicines from state-licensed pharmacies or outsourcing facilities registered with FDA.

What should health care professionals know?

Health care professionals who are considering working with compounders to obtain semaglutide products should be aware that compounders may be using salt forms of semaglutide. FDA is not aware of any basis for compounding a drug using semaglutide salts that would meet federal requirements.

Learn more in this notice from the FDA [here](#).

WHY BEDSIDE MANNERS MATTER



Why do bedside manners matter? Sir William Osler (who helped found Johns Hopkins Hospital) was renowned for treating his patients based on the Victorian values of a gentleman. These values include: integrity, honor, politeness, and a sense of duty.

With these standards in mind, here are five evidence-based tips for connecting with patients to help create a positive outcome:

1. Prepare with intention. Take a few moments in advance to get ready to see your patient.
2. Listen completely and intently. Use your body to convey that you're paying close attention, by sitting down, unfolding your arms and making eye contact.
3. Agree on what matters most. Together, you and your patients can develop shared priorities.
4. Connect with your patient's story. Consider your patient's perspective and how their personal circumstances affect their health.
5. Explore emotional cues. Are you watching for the unspoken signs that give insight into how your patient is feeling? Notice and validate your patient's emotions.

Patients who perceive that their doctor has a good bedside manner are more likely to view their treatment as effective.

References:

1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3246857/>
2. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2758456>

ONLINE RESOURCES

- **Medetomidine in Illinois Drug Supply:** The Illinois Department of Public Health and Chicago Public Health issued warnings that multiple drug samples collected from the West Side of Chicago on May 11, 2024 tested positive for elevated levels of medetomidine. In addition, fentanyl, heroin, xylazine, alprazolam and nitazenes have been detected in the same samples. Learn more – including actions to take – by going [here](#)
- **The June 2024 Illinois Prescription Monitoring Program (ILPMP) newsletter** may be found online [here](#).
- The **Illinois Sexual Assault and Medical Forensic Services 2-hour Training** is being provided by the Office of the Illinois Attorney General SANE Program to meet the mandatory continuing education requirement for responding to sexual assault survivors as addressed in the Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act (410 ILCS 70/2).

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and the Office of the Illinois Attorney General Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program. The SIU School of Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Learn more about this training – including how to register – by going [here](#).

- Find IDFPR's monthly disciplinary reports online by going here: <https://idfpr.illinois.gov/news/disciplines/discreports.html>. In addition, you may check if IDFPR has disciplined a particular license by using the Department's License Lookup Tool: <https://online-dfpr.micropact.com/lookup/licenselookup.aspx>.

CONTACT US

Licensing and Testing

320 West Washington Street
3rd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62786

General Assistance:

1-888-473-4858

Enforcement, Complaints, and Investigations

555 West Monroe Street
5th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60661

Complaint Intake Unit:

312-814-6910

Professional Licensing:

1-800-560-6420

TTY Line:

866-325-4949

<https://idfpr.illinois.gov/dpr.html>



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