



Joint Statement on the Impact of Health Conditions and Medication Use on the Operation of Vehicles

Minnesota Boards of Medical Practice, Nursing, and Pharmacy

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has recommended that health care providers discuss with patients the effect their medical condition and medication use may have on their ability to safely operate a vehicle in any mode of transportation. In September of 2014, the NTSB published a safety study, Drug Use Trends in Aviation: Assessing the Risk of Pilot Impairment, SS 14/01, available at <http://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-studies/Documents/SS1401.pdf>. The background and basis for the recommendations may be found on pages 36-38 of the report. In follow-up to the NTSB recommendations, the tri-regulatory Boards of Medical Practice, Nursing, and Pharmacy (Boards) developed this Joint Statement on the Impact of Health Conditions and Medication Use on the Operation of Vehicles. For the purposes of this Statement, "vehicle" refers to the operation of a vehicle in any mode of transportation.

The Joint Statement is meant to offer guidance to pharmacists and licensed healthcare providers who are authorized to prescribe medications. To effectively assist patients with medical conditions or medications that may impair an individual's ability to operate a vehicle, health professionals should, within their scopes of practice:

- Provide education to patients regarding medical conditions and medications, including prescription, over-the-counter, and dose increases, that may impact their ability to operate vehicles safely.
- Educate patients regarding drug interactions bearing in mind the combination of medications, health conditions, and/or alcohol, and the potential for additive effects or resultant increases in central nervous system depressant effects, and the impact these interactions may have on an individual's ability to operate a vehicle.
- Exercise increased clinical vigilance when patients are instructed to consume concurrent medications that cause central nervous system depression and carefully consider the risks associated with such combinations.
- Engage the patient, family members, and caregivers as active participants in medications or health conditions that may impair the patient's ability to operate a vehicle.
- Provide consultation on all new prescriptions and refills and with patients. Pharmacists are required to provide such consultation pursuant to MN Rule 6800.0910.
- Ensure that drugs that are administered systemically as controlled substances under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 152, and parts 6800.4200 to 6800.4250, and other drugs deemed appropriate in the professional judgment of a pharmacist, are labeled according to the requirements of part 6800.3400 and in addition contain the following: "Caution: Taking this drug alone or with alcohol may impair your ability to drive." Additionally, ensure controlled substances are also labeled: "Caution: Federal law prohibits the transfer of this drug to any person other than the patient for whom it was prescribed" pursuant to MN Rules 6800.4150.
- Comply with all state and federal laws and regulations regarding prescribing, dispensing, and administering drugs including but not limited to MS 147, 147A, 148.235, 151 and 152.

Resources

- Electronic Code of Federal Regulations. (2016) *Title 21: Food and Drug. Part 201 – Labeling*. Retrieved from <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=2b0067d7f97c65cd6f19669ea065014f&mc=true&node=sp21.4.201.b&rgn=div6>
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- Minnesota Statute § 148.235 Minnesota Board of Nursing.
- Minnesota Statute § 151, 152. Minnesota Board of Pharmacy.
- Minnesota Board of Pharmacy Rules Chapter 6800.
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (2015). *Drug and Alcohol Crash Risk*. Retrieved from www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/pdf/812117-Drug_and_Alcohol_Crash_Risk.pdf
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