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MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

THE AMPHETAMINE RULE

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS:

There are two provisions in Med 10 of the board rules of conduct that pertain to the use of anorectic medications for weight control regimens in Wisconsin.

1. Med 10.02(2)(s) is generally referred to as the “amphetamine rule” and provides as follows:

(2) The term “unprofessional conduct” is defined to mean and include but not be limited to the following, or aiding or abetting the same:

(s) Prescribing, ordering, dispensing, administering, supplying, selling, or giving any amphetamine, or sympathomimetic amine drug designated as a Schedule II controlled substance pursuant to the provisions of Sec. 961.16(5), Stats., to or for any person except for any of the following:

1. Use as an adjunct to opioid analgesic compounds for treatment of cancer-related pain,
2. Treatment of narcolepsy,
3. Treatment of hypekinesis,
4. Treatment of drug induced brain dysfunction,
5. Treatment of epilepsy,
6. Differential diagnostic psychiatric evaluation of depression,
7. Treatment of depression shown to be refractory to other therapeutic modalities,
8. Clinical investigation of the effects of such drugs or compounds in which case an investigative protocol therefore shall have been submitted to and reviewed and approved by the board before such investigation has been begun.

This rule applies to Schedule II stimulants (amphetamines and sympathomimetic amines pursuant to the provisions of 961.16(5), stats) which would include, at this time, drugs such as dextroamphetamine (Dexadrine) & (Dextrostat); methamphetamine (Desoxyn); amphetamine and dextroamphetamine (Adderall); and methylphenidate. This rule *prohibits* the prescription of these Schedule II drug except for the specific indications enumerated above. Thus it is considered unprofessional conduct to prescribe any of these drugs as anorectics for weight control in Wisconsin since weight control is not an accepted indication for Schedule II stimulants in this state.

2. Med 10.02(2)(zb) provides the following:

(2) The term “unprofessional conduct” is defined to mean and include but not be limited to the following, or aiding or abetting the same:

(zb) Prescribing, ordering, dispensing, administering, supplying, selling or giving any anorectic drug designated as a Schedule III, IV or V controlled substance for the purpose of weight reduction or control in the treatment of obesity unless each of the following conditions is met:

1. The patient’s body mass index, weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared, is greater than 25.

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2. A comprehensive history, physical examination, and interpreted electrocardiogram are performed and recorded at the time of initiation of treatment for obesity by the prescribing physician.
3. A diet and exercise program for weight loss is prescribed and recorded.
4. The patient is weighed at least once a month, at which time a recording is made of blood pressure, pulse, and any other tests as may be necessary for monitoring potential adverse effects of drug therapy.
5. No more than a 30-day supply of drugs is prescribed or dispensed at any one time.
6. No drugs are prescribed or dispensed for more than 90 days unless all of the following occur:
 - a. The patient has a recorded weight loss of at least 12 pounds in the first 90 days of therapy.
 - b. The patient has continued progress toward achieving or maintaining a target weight.
 - c. The patient has no significant adverse effects from the prescribed program.
7. Any variance from the foregoing requirements is justified by documentation in the patient's record.

This rule intends that Schedule III, IV and V *anorectic* drugs be permitted to be prescribed for purposes of weight reduction or control in the treatment of obesity when each of the above conditions are met. Schedule III or IV would cover such drugs, for example, as Phentermine Hydrochloride (Adipex; Fastin; Banobese; Oby-cap; Zantryl etc.) or Phendimetrazine Tartrate (Bontril; Prelu-2; Plegine etc.) and would permit their use for weight reduction within the enumerated guidelines.