



## **Attention: TPA-certified optometrists registered in CURES to prescribe controlled substances**

**Starting January 1, 2021, new laws will impact licensees who prescribe and/or dispense controlled substances.**

**1. Updated Prescription Pad Security Requirements** - starting January 1, 2021, California state law requires 15 security elements, including a 12-character serial number and corresponding barcode, to appear on California Security Prescription Forms. State law also requires California Security Prescription Forms to be produced by printers approved by the California Department of Justice's California Security Prescription Printers Program. For more information, please refer to the AB 149 Joint Statement.

**2. Revised Reporting Requirements for Controlled Substances** – starting January 1, 2021, the dispensing of a controlled substance must be reported to the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) within one working day after the medication is released to the patient or the patient's representative. Previously, the deadline to report was seven days after dispensing. Further, this law requires reporting of Schedule V drugs, in addition to Schedules II, III, and IV. This requirement applies to pharmacists and prescribers who dispense controlled substances.

For further information, please refer to the AB 149 Joint Statement or email the Board.

**3. Effective April 1, 2021, the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) fee will increase from \$6 to \$11 annually for a period of two years.** The increase will be applied to licenses expiring after July 1, 2021, and is assessed at the time of license renewal on specified licensees of the California State Board of Optometry that prescribe, order, administer, furnish, or dispense Schedule II, Schedule III, Schedule IV, or Schedule V controlled substances.

Most licensees will see a \$22 CURES Fee due to the biennial renewal cycle. The fee covers the reasonable regulatory costs of the Department of Justice for operating and maintaining CURES, a critical element in the state's effort to address the growing danger of opioid addiction stemming from prescription drug abuse.

For more information about CURES, visit: <https://oag.ca.gov/cures>.