PDMP FOUNDATION E-NEWSLETTER

Supporting the State of Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

VOL VII. NO.2 NOVEMBER 2026



Dr. Marc Kaprow
DO,MHA,MACOI

Integrated Pain Management in Outpatient Settings

Wednesday, Dec. 2nd, 2026

"Safer Prescriptions. Stronger Communities."

WEBINARS PROVIDED BY
THE FLORIDA PDMP FOUNDATION AND FMA

1.5 hours CME credit per course

5:30-7:00pm EST

Register Now



Dr. Karen Harris
MD,MPH,OBGYN

Screening & Diagnosing SUDS in Pregnant and Postpartum Patients

Thurs, Dec. 3rd, 2026

E-FORCSE® | PDMP FLORIDA PDMP FOUNDATION, INC. | FMA Florida Medical Association | Florida HEALTH

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



The Florida PDMP Foundation completed the first quarter of its current FY 2026-2027 on September 30th. As part of its priorities in support of the state of Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (E-FORCSE®), the foundation continued its involvement to provide continuing education course deliverables as part of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Overdose Data to Action Grant (OD2A), a national Opioid prescribing education program.

Working in conjunction with the Florida Medical Association the foundation offered two new webinar courses on September 29 and 30, 2026. The first course was presented by Dr. Marc Kaprow on the topic of "Integrated Pain Management in Outpatient Settings". The second webinar presented by Dr. Karen Harris covered the topic "Screening and Diagnosis of Substance Use Disorders in Pregnant and Postpartum Patients." Both speakers webinars are being presented again on December 2nd and 3rd.

[Dr. Lee Ann Brown, DO, FAAPMR, currently serves as Acting Chair of the Florida PDMP Foundation Board of Directors. Dr, Brown received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from West Virginia University and completed her residency at Northwestern University. She is certified in physical medicine and pain management with a private practice in Clearwater. She is past president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association.]

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE



Through the first quarter of the PDMP Foundation's fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, the staff, CPA and legal counsel were involved in providing all operational and financial records to an auditor for completion of the yearly audit. As a Direct Support Organization to the Florida Department of Health the foundation is required to have its financial records audited. The final audit is then submitted to the PDMP Foundation Board of Directors and FDOH for distribution to various government agencies.

As part of its role to support E-FORCSE® outreach and education programs, foundation staff attended the Florida Sheriffs Association winter meeting in Orlando on October 26-27th. The foundation is also expected to be an exhibitor at the Florida Police Chiefs Association winter conference January 10-11, 2027 in Orlando; the Florida Podiatric Medical Association SAM, January 27-30, Orlando; and the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association annual meeting February 25-27, 2027 in Tampa.

[Mr. Macdonald, MS, is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and received a master's in health planning and policy from the University of Cincinnati. He served as a consumer member of the Florida Board of Nursing and was a director on the staff of the Florida Dental Association.]

Legal Corner with General Counsel of the PDMP Foundation

Jason D. Winn, Partner, Panzer Maurer



Florida Telehealth Laws: What Healthcare Practitioners Need to Know

Updated October 2026 | Section 456.47, Florida Statutes

Florida law permits licensed healthcare practitioners to provide medical and other healthcare services to patients through telehealth, including video conferencing, electronic communications, remote patient monitoring, and audio-only telephone calls.

Section 456.47, Florida Statutes, establishes the legal framework for telehealth services, including standards of care, patient evaluations, prescribing limitations, medical records, and registration requirements for out-of-state practitioners.

Under § 456.47(1)(a), Florida Statutes, telehealth is defined as the use of synchronous or asynchronous telecommunications technology by a telehealth provider to deliver healthcare services. These services include patient assessments, diagnoses, consultations, treatment, monitoring, transfer of medical information, patient education,

and other health-related services. The statutory definition specifically excludes ordinary email messages and facsimile transmissions.

Florida-licensed healthcare practitioners do not need an additional license, certificate, or registration to provide telehealth services to patients located in Florida. Section 456.47 applies to a broad range of healthcare professionals, including physicians, osteopathic physicians, podiatrists, chiropractors, nurses, physician assistants, dentists, pharmacists, optometrists, physical therapists, hearing aid specialists, mental health professionals, and other licensed practitioners identified in the statute. These professionals may provide telehealth services within their authorized scope of practice, subject to the same professional standards that apply to in-person care.

Audio-Only Telehealth Services

Florida law permits healthcare practitioners to provide telehealth services through audio-only telephone communications. The prior statutory exclusion of audio-only telephone calls was removed in 2022, expanding the methods available for delivering healthcare services.

However, the ability to provide telehealth services by telephone does not mean that every medical condition can appropriately be evaluated or treated without a physical examination. Practitioners must determine whether the technology being used allows them to obtain sufficient information to properly evaluate, diagnose, and treat the patient. When an audio-only consultation is insufficient to meet the applicable standard of care, the practitioner should arrange for a video consultation, in-person examination, or other appropriate evaluation.

Standard of Care and Patient Evaluations

Section 456.47(2), Florida Statutes, requires telehealth providers to practice consistently with their authorized scope of practice and the prevailing professional standard of care applicable to healthcare practitioners providing in-person services in Florida. In other words, the standard of care does not change simply because the patient is being treated through telehealth.

Florida law expressly permits telehealth providers to conduct patient evaluations through telecommunications technology. If the practitioner conducts an evaluation sufficient to diagnose and treat the patient, the statute does not independently require the practitioner to review the patient's prior medical history or conduct an in-person physical examination before providing treatment. Nevertheless, the practitioner remains responsible for determining whether additional information, testing, or physical examination is clinically necessary.

Practitioners must also document telehealth services in the patient's medical record according to the same standards applicable to in-person care. Medical records generated through telehealth, including applicable audio, video, and electronic records, remain subject to Florida's medical-record confidentiality requirements under §§ 395.3025 and 456.057, Florida Statutes.

Prescribing Medications Through Telehealth

Florida law permits authorized healthcare practitioners to prescribe medications through telehealth, subject to applicable state and federal prescribing requirements.

Under § 456.47(2)(c), Florida Statutes, telehealth providers generally may prescribe noncontrolled medications and Schedule III, IV, and V controlled substances when otherwise authorized by law. However, Florida law specifically prohibits prescribing

Schedule II controlled substances through telehealth unless the prescription is for one of the following circumstances:

- Treatment of a psychiatric disorder.
- Inpatient treatment at a hospital licensed under Chapter 395, Florida Statutes.
- Treatment of a patient receiving hospice services as defined in § 400.601, Florida Statutes.
- Treatment of a resident of a nursing home facility as defined in § 400.021, Florida Statutes.

These exceptions do not eliminate other applicable prescribing requirements. Practitioners must continue to comply with Florida's controlled-substance prescribing laws, professional standards, applicable Prescription Drug Monitoring Program requirements, and federal DEA regulations.

Importantly, the fact that Florida law permits a particular prescription through telehealth does not necessarily mean that federal law permits the prescription under the same circumstances. Practitioners prescribing controlled substances must comply with both sets of requirements.

Out-of-State Telehealth Providers

Florida also allows healthcare professionals licensed in other states to provide telehealth services to patients located in Florida without obtaining a full Florida professional license. Under § 456.47(4), Florida Statutes, an eligible out-of-state practitioner may register with the Florida Department of Health as an Out-of-State Telehealth Provider.

The registration is free. However, applicants must satisfy several statutory requirements, including maintaining an active, unencumbered professional license in another state or qualifying U.S. jurisdiction, having no disqualifying disciplinary history or pending disciplinary action, designating a registered agent for service of process in Florida, and maintaining the professional liability coverage or financial responsibility required by Florida law. The practitioner must also provide services within the scope of practice authorized under Florida law.

Once registered, an out-of-state telehealth provider may treat patients located in Florida through telehealth but may not establish an office in Florida or provide in-person healthcare services to Florida patients under that registration. Registered providers must also comply with Florida's professional standards, medical-record requirements, and applicable disciplinary laws. A registered provider with a website must prominently display a link to the Department of Health's telehealth website. Certain licensing restrictions and disciplinary actions must be reported to the Department within five business days.

There are limited exceptions to the registration requirement for out-of-state professionals responding to an emergency medical condition or consulting with a Florida-licensed healthcare professional who retains ultimate authority over the patient's diagnosis and care.

The registration does not expire, provided the practitioner continues to satisfy the applicable requirements. Unlike a full Florida professional license, this registration authorizes telehealth services only. Healthcare practitioners interested in obtaining an out-of-state telehealth registration may apply through the Florida Department of Health:

2026 Out-of-State Telehealth Provider Registration Application

Florida Department of Health Telehealth Information

Treating Patients Located Outside Florida

An important consideration for Florida healthcare practitioners is the location of the patient receiving telehealth services. Under § 456.47(5), Florida Statutes, healthcare services provided through telehealth are generally deemed to occur where the patient is located at the time the services are delivered or in the patient's county of residence.

A Florida professional license does not automatically authorize a practitioner to provide telehealth services to patients physically located in another state. Practitioners wishing to treat patients outside Florida must determine whether the laws of the patient's state require a separate professional license, telehealth registration, or other authorization. Conversely, a Florida-licensed practitioner who is temporarily outside Florida may generally continue providing telehealth services to patients physically located in Florida, subject to any applicable laws of the practitioner's location.

The Florida Department of Health specifically advises Florida licensees to review the laws and rules of the state where the patient is located before providing interstate telehealth services.

Additional Restrictions and Federal Requirements

Florida law expressly prohibits using telehealth to perform an abortion, including a medication abortion, under § 456.47(2)(f), Florida Statutes. Healthcare practitioners must also comply with applicable federal privacy and security requirements, including HIPAA where applicable, when selecting telehealth platforms and communicating patient information.

Federal law imposes additional requirements on prescribing controlled substances through telehealth. As of October 2026, the DEA and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have extended certain federal telemedicine prescribing flexibilities through December 31, 2026. These provisions allow qualifying DEA-registered practitioners to prescribe certain controlled substances without a prior in-person examination when applicable federal conditions are satisfied. The temporary federal flexibility does not override Florida's restrictions on Schedule II prescribing.

Conclusion

Telehealth continues to provide Florida healthcare practitioners with additional opportunities to deliver medical services to patients who may otherwise face difficulties obtaining in-person care. Florida-licensed healthcare professionals generally may provide telehealth services to patients located in Florida without obtaining any additional license or registration, while eligible out-of-state practitioners may obtain a free telehealth registration through the Department of Health.

Practitioners should remember that telehealth is simply another method of delivering healthcare services. The same professional standards, scope-of-practice limitations, documentation requirements, and patient protections applicable to in-person care continue to apply. Before providing telehealth services, practitioners should ensure that the technology being used is appropriate for the patient's condition, that any prescriptions comply with state and federal law, and that they are legally authorized to treat patients in the jurisdiction where those patients are located.

[Jason Winn is a Partner and registered lobbyist at Panza Maurer practicing in the areas of administrative, civil, legislative, and governmental affairs. An accomplished speaker, Winn frequently lectures across Florida on the laws and rules impacting health care practitioners. He serves as general counsel for the Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, Florida

Osteopathic Medical Association, Florida Podiatric Medical Association, the Sheriff's Offices in Gadsden and Wakulla, and the Florida Hearing Society of which he is also the Executive Director. Throughout his career, Jason has represented local governments, law enforcement agencies, healthcare professionals, and professional associations in complex regulatory, employment, and governmental matters. Panza Maurer is a Florida-based law firm with offices in Fort Lauderdale, Miami, and Tallahassee, representing businesses, regulated industries, institutions, and governmental entities in complex administrative, regulatory, procurement, litigation, and governmental affairs matters.]

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REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

PDMP Foundation Continuing Education & Professional Training

2026-2027 OD2A-S Grant Year
PDMP Foundation CE Programs



The PDMP Foundation, in partnership with the Florida Medical Association (FMA) and Florida's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (E-FORCSE®), offers continuing education programs focused on the **CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain**.

Available in live and hybrid webinar formats, these courses are designed to support safe, evidence-based pain management and substance use disorder (SUD) care.

The programs are presented by **Dr. Marc G. Kaprow, DO, MHA, MACOI**, and **Dr. Karen E. Harris, MD, MPH**, recognized experts in pain management and SUD treatment.

Dr. Kaprow's course, **Integrated Pain Management in Outpatient Settings**, examines evidence-based strategies for pain management, including appropriate opioid prescribing, dosage considerations, and non-opioid treatment options.

Dr. Harris's course, **Integrated Pain Management: Evidence-Based Therapies**, focuses on pregnancy-related clinical considerations, including substance use and its effects on maternal and fetal health. The course also emphasizes compassionate communication, treatment planning, referrals, and multidisciplinary care.

Upcoming Webinars

- **Integrated Pain Management in Outpatient Settings (1.5 CME)**
  Presented by Dr. Kaprow
  December 2 | 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM EST
- **Screening & Diagnosing Substance Use Disorders (1.5 CME)**
  Presented by Dr. Harris
  December 3 | 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM EST

Registration details are available above.

Professional Development Seminar Series

During the 2025-2026 grant year, the PDMP Foundation launched **Florida's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP): A Professional Development Seminar** for medical residents and students in Florida's medical, nursing (APRN), dental, podiatry, and pharmacy programs.

The seminar provides education on PDMP use in clinical practice, legal and ethical considerations related to controlled substance prescribing, and best practices for responsible prescribing and patient safety. Information has been shared with residency program directors and health professional school leaders statewide, and feedback is being collected to support successful integration into healthcare training programs.

The PDMP Foundation remains committed to expanding educational opportunities across Florida to help healthcare professionals and trainees promote safe prescribing practices, identify substance use disorders, and effectively utilize the PDMP in patient care.

[Dr. Kelli W. Ferrell currently serves as the Health Educator for the Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Foundation (PDMPF). Kelli has a vast knowledge and over 20 years of experience in clinical pharmacy practice, managed care and administrative pharmacy, and health outcomes research. Dr. Ferrell earned her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences from Florida A&M University (FAMU). She also has a Master of Science and a Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences with concentrations in Pharmacoeconomics and Health Outcomes Research, both from FAMU.]

DID YOU KNOW?



FOUNDATION ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM CONTINUES

The Florida PDMP Foundation Annual Giving Program seeks yearly charitable contributions from supporters to help fund upgrades and enhancements for outreach and educational programs for the state PDMP. Tax-deductible contributions can be made directly to the Foundation on its website at: www.flpdmpfoundation.com/donations/.

Contributions can be made by credit card or by sending a check to: The Florida PDMP Foundation, Inc., 10801 Starkey Rd., #104-221, Seminole, FL 33777.

PDMP Foundation E-NEWS Contact Information

If you have questions about any information that appears in this newsletter or the Foundation's activities in support of E-FORCSE®, please contact Maggie Thigpen, Communications Specialist, at margaret.thigpen@flpdmpfoundation.com.

E-FORCSE® Contact Information

For technical assistance, please call 1-877-719-3120. If you have questions specific to state policy, you may contact E-FORCSE® at 850-245-4797 or by e-mail at e-forcse@flhealth.gov.

To create an E-FORCSE® account, navigate to https://florida.pmpaware.net and click "Create an Account."

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