

# Duty to report prescribing misconduct

**What is it?** A legal obligation to report controlled substance prescribing misconduct by a licensee of the North Carolina Medical Board, established by [2019 amendments to the NC Medical Practice Act](#).

**Who does this affect?** The law applies to any licensed physician or PA who is aware that another licensee of the North Carolina Medical Board may have engaged in controlled substance prescribing misconduct.

**Why is this needed?** The opioid overdose epidemic is still going strong and while a large majority of overdose deaths are known to be caused by drugs obtained from someone other than a licensed prescriber, many people initially develop opioid use problems when taking prescribed opioids medications. North Carolina is very interested in stamping out all illicit prescribing, drug diversion and medication misuse, which led the General Assembly to establish this reporting requirement.

**When is a report required?** North Carolina law states that a licensee of the medical board must report if he or she “reasonably believes” that another licensee has engaged in [fraudulent prescribing, drug diversion or theft of controlled substances](#).

**How is a report submitted?** Head to the North Carolina Medical Board website to [report a concern online](#).

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## **Additional Resources**



[Duty to Report resource page](#)



[MedBoard Matters podcast on Licensee Duty to Report Controlled Substance Prescribing Misconduct](#)