



JUSTICE DATA AND INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU
CURES PROGRAM
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August 29, 2022

TO: ALL CURES USERS
RE: ADOPTION OF UPDATED CURES REGULATIONS

On April 11, 2022, the California Department of Justice (CA DOJ) released an optimized Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES). The optimized CURES provides an improved user interface and new system features, including functionality authorized through recent legislation.

To align the existing CURES regulations with the implementation of the optimized CURES, CA DOJ has promulgated updated CURES regulations, which became effective on August 15, 2022. The text of these regulations can be viewed at the following hyperlink: <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/CURES%20-%20Text%20of%20Adopted%20Regulations.pdf>.

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform CURES users of the adoption of the updated CURES regulations, and to highlight certain important and substantive changes included in these updated regulations.

1. New User Role Added: Non-DEA Practitioner

The optimized CURES includes the addition of a Non-DEA Practitioner-User¹ role. A Non-DEA Practitioner is defined in section 820(vv) of the regulations to mean, “a California licensee who holds a physician’s and surgeon’s license and is engaged in the professional practice authorized by that license under the jurisdiction of the applicable Licensing Board, who does not have a DEA Registration Certificate.” For more details on the Non-DEA Practitioner-User role, review Article 2.2 of the updated CURES regulations entitled, “Access and Use by Non-DEA Practitioners.”

2. Expanded Delegate Role

The optimized CURES expands Delegate functionality by allowing Delegates to directly access data in CURES. Corresponding with this new functionality, the updated CURES regulations set forth new requirements and procedures regarding Delegate eligibility and the establishment of Delegate Agreements. For more details on the new Delegate functionality, CA DOJ has published a bulletin entitled “New Features and Requirements for Expanded Delegate Access,” a quick reference guide that details how to establish and activate a Delegate in CURES (with common questions and answers), and

¹ Any non-standard capitalized words, such as “Law Enforcement-User,” that are found in this bulletin indicate a defined term from the regulations.

two sample Delegate Agreements that are available for download. The bulletin, quick reference guide, and sample Delegate Agreements may be found at <https://oag.ca.gov/cures> under the section entitled, “New Requirements for Expanded Delegate Functionality.”

3. Interstate Data Sharing

The optimized CURES introduces system functionality that will allow for Interstate Data Sharing as soon as CA DOJ finalizes Interstate Data Sharing agreements with other states. CA DOJ is currently working on agreements with the bordering states (Oregon, Nevada, and Arizona). The updated CURES regulations contain new provisions that supplement the existing interstate data sharing regulations. For more details, review Article 2.5 of the updated CURES regulations entitled, “Access and Use by Interstate-Users.”

4. New Pre-Approval Process for Law Enforcement-Users Obtaining a PAR

The optimized CURES introduces a pre-approval process for Law Enforcement-Users prior to running a Patient Activity Report (PAR). The updated CURES regulations define the requirements that Law Enforcement-Users must follow to submit this search authorization for pre-approval to obtain a PAR. For more details on these requirements, review Article 2.7 of the updated CURES regulations entitled, “Access and Use by Law Enforcement Officials.” For more details on this pre-approval process, CA DOJ published a bulletin on March 10, 2022, entitled “New PAR Pre-Approval Requirement,” which may be accessed by logging into CURES and navigating to the Bulletins section.

5. Bona Fide Researchers Access to Identified Individual-Level Data

The updated CURES regulations add a newly required form for Bona Fide Researchers that are requesting Identified Individual-Level Data through compliance with Civil Code section 1798.24(b). The form, entitled, “Consent for Use of Personal Information from CURES (CURES 0001),” can be accessed at: <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/Consent%20For%20Use%20of%20Personal%20Information%20From%20CURES%20-%20CURES%200001.pdf>.

The updated CURES regulations also authorize Bona Fide Researchers to access Identified Individual-Level Data through compliance with Civil Code section 1798.24(t). For more details on both of these provisions, review section 828.6(c)(11)(H) of the regulations.

If you have questions about the information contained in this bulletin, please contact the CURES Program at cures@doj.ca.gov or (916) 210-3187.