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MEMORANDUM

TO: William L. Harp, MD
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Medicine

FROM: Erin L. Barrett
Assistant Attorney General

DATE: February 17, 2017

SUBJECT: *Regulations Governing Opioid Prescribing for Pain and Prescribing of Buprenorphine for Addiction Treatment*
18VAC85-21-10 *et seq.*

I have reviewed the *Regulations Governing Opioid Prescribing for Pain and Prescribing of Buprenorphine for Addiction Treatment*, 18 VAC 85-21-10 *et seq.* The proposed regulations create practice guidelines for the prescribing of opioids for pain management and for the prescribing of buprenorphine for addiction treatment. These emergency regulations are promulgated pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-4011 following the declaration of the opioid addiction crisis as a public health emergency by the State Health Commissioner on November 21, 2016. The Board of Medicine has the statutory authority to promulgate these regulations under Virginia Code § 54.1-2400. The proposed regulations are constitutional and do not conflict with existing federal or state laws or regulations.