PDMP Use Mandate
Prescriber Fact Sheet

Overview

Effective July 1, 2018 Maryland statute (§21–2A–04.2) requires CDS prescribers and pharmacists in Maryland to request and to assess data from the Maryland Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) in certain prescribing and dispensing situations.

The Maryland Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) is administered by the Department of Health (MDH). The PDMP collects and securely stores information on drugs that contain controlled substances and are dispensed to patients in Maryland; the Program then makes these data available to authorized end users, such as clinicians. To register and access the PDMP database, prescribers and pharmacists must use the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP), the state-designated health information exchange, which also serves as the IT partner for the program.

When must Prescribers check the PDMP?

- Before beginning a new course of treatment with opioids or benzodiazepines
- When a course of treatment extends beyond 90 days. In this case, prescribers must query again at least every 90 days after prescribing opioids or benzodiazepines
- Must view at least the last 4 months of data (this will always be available within a PDMP data view)
- A prescriber's delegate may pull the PDMP data, but the prescriber remains responsible for assessing the data prior to making a prescribing decision

Are there any exceptions to the PDMP Use Mandate?

Yes. A prescriber is NOT REQUIRED to check the PDMP if the opioid or benzodiazepine is prescribed or dispensed to an individual:

- For a period of 3 days or less (≤3 days)
- For cancer treatment or cancer-related pain
- For a patient who is:
  - Receiving treatment in an inpatient unit of a hospital
  - Part of a general hospice program*
  - Diagnosed with a terminal illness *
  - Residing in a nursing home, long-term care, developmental disability, or assisted living facility
- To treat or prevent acute pain for a period of 14 days or less (≤14 days) following:
  - Surgical procedure*
  - Bone Fracture
  - Significant trauma*
  - Childbirth

*See Use Mandate FAQs on PDMP website for definitions

The following scenarios** would also be considered exempt from the PDMP Use Mandate:

- When accessing PDMP data would result in a delay of treatment that would negatively impact the medical condition of the patient
- When electronic access is not operational, as determined by the Department of Health
- In the event of temporary electrical or technological failure

If one of these exemptions applies, the provider must **use reasonable medical judgment in determining whether to prescribe or dispense an opioid or benzodiazepine, and must document in the patient's health record **the reason PDMP data was not accessed.**

What do I need to document in the medical record?

To comply with requirements of the use mandate, prescribers need to document in the patient's health record that the PDMP data was assessed prior to prescribing the opioid or benzodiazepine.

How do I get more information?

If you have any questions about implementation of the use mandate:

- Please see additional resources on the **Maryland PDMP website: www.MarylandPDMP.org**