

# ROLE OF PMP IN DIVERSION INVESTIGATIONS

## Case Study

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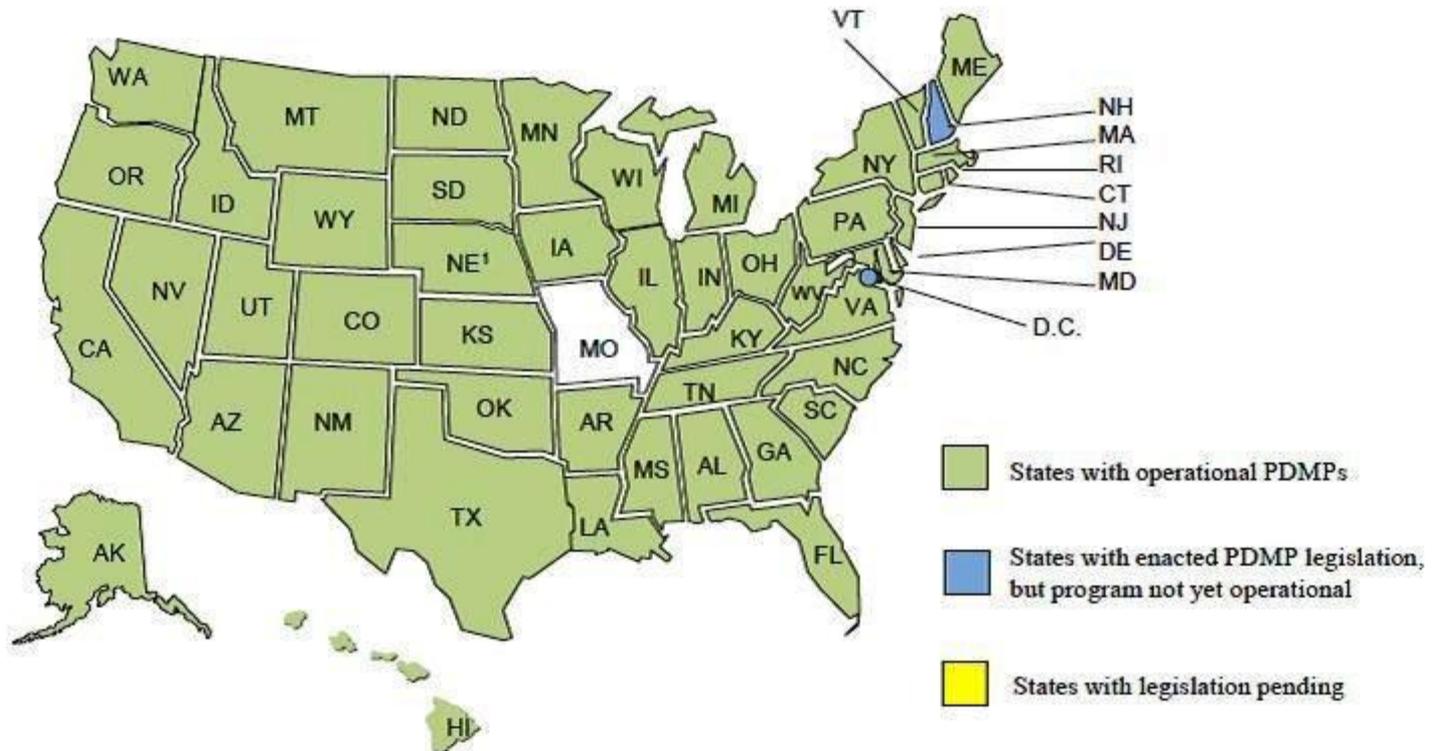
# PRESCRIPTION MONITOR PROGRAM

- Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP/PMP)
    - Collects data on substances dispensed
    - State-wide and state operated
    - Distributes data to entities authorized by state law
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# PRESCRIPTION MONITOR PROGRAM

- Forty-eight states have some form of operational PMP

Status of State Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PMPs)



# CASE STUDY

*United States*

*v.*

*Robert Villarreal, et al*

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# BACKGROUND

- DEA receives tip from a pharmacy that Dr. Robert Villarreal was filling suspicious prescriptions for hydrocodone, oxycodone, and amphetamine
- Dr. Villarreal was employed as an orthopedic surgeon at a prominent hospital in RI, as well as at the VA hospital in RI



# INVESTIGATION- PMP

- Investigators obtain PMP data for Dr. Villarreal

<u>Date Filled</u>	<u>Drug</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Pharmacy</u>
8-Jan	Hydrocodone	40	Walgreens
14-Jan	Hydrocodone	50	CVS
17-Jan	Amphetamine	90	Rite Aid
21-Jan	Oxycodone	40	CVS
24-Jan	Amphetamine	60	CVS

# INVESTIGATION- PMP

- Prescriptions for same or similar drug in a 30-day period
- Filled at different pharmacies
- Written by same physician
  - Colleague
  - Shared office with Villarreal
- All are indicators of diversion

# INVESTIGATION- EVIDENCE

- Investigators obtain original prescriptions
  - Colleague denies writing prescriptions
  - Investigators obtain images
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# INVESTIGATION- PMP

- Investigators obtain PMP data for prescriptions written *by* Dr. Villarreal

<u>Patient</u>	<u>Drug</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
A	Hydrocodone	50
A	Amphetamine	60
B	Hydrocodone	50
B	Amphetamine	60
C	Hydrocodone	50
C	Amphetamine	60

# INVESTIGATION- PMP

- Prescriptions for both hydrocodone and amphetamine to same patients
- Patients were in their early 20's
- All were hospital employees
- All are indicators of diversion

# INVESTIGATION- EVIDENCE

- Investigators obtain original prescriptions
  - Investigators obtain images
  - Gain cooperation from one employee
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# INVESTIGATION- UC OPERATION

- Agents interview one employee
    - Identified surgical tech as assisting Villarreal
    - Identified other hospital employees involved in scheme
  - Employee agrees to cooperate with DEA
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# INVESTIGATION- UC OPERATION

- Cooperator obtained prescription from tech
- Returned amphetamine pills to Villarreal
- Tech and Villarreal are arrested and confess
  - Soliciting other employees
  - Performing surgeries under the influence of amphetamines



# INVESTIGATION- RESULTS

- Arrests
    - Dr. Robert Villarreal
    - Surgical tech
    - Six hospital employees
  - Surrender of Villarreal's medical and DEA license
  - Dismissal of all employees
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# INVESTIGATION- RESULTS

- Diversion < 1 year
  - 50,000+ dsu's of amphetamines
  - 5,000+ dsu's of hydrocodone
  - 2,000+ dsu's of oxycodone
- As a result of this scheme, several hospital employees became addicted



# PMP EFFECTIVENESS

- PMP data was vital in this and similar investigations
  - Identified diversion method
  - Identified co-conspirators
  - Identified and quantified health care fraud



# PMP EFFECTIVENESS

- Negative
    - Data quality
    - Time lag
    - Delegation of access
    - Mandatory v. voluntary
    - Lack of threshold/trigger mechanism
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# PMP EFFECTIVENESS

- Positive
    - Identifies diversion
      - Patients
      - Registrants
    - Prevent diversion with threshold/trigger mechanism
    - Identify drug abusers for treatment
    - Identify trends
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Questions?



# CONTACTS

For assistance or questions please contact:

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