California Department of Justice

CURES

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

February, 2013
The mission of the California Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) is to eliminate pharmaceutical drug diversion in the state while promoting legitimate medical practice and quality patient care.
Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System
The California Triplicate Prescription Program (TPP) was created in 1939, capturing Schedule II prescription information.

CURES was initiated, operating in parallel with the TPP’s Automated Triplicate Prescription System (ATPS) to evaluate the comparative efficiencies between the two systems.

CURES replaced the TPP/ATPS and began capturing Schedules II through IV prescription information.

TPP/ATPS decommissioned after Senate Bill (SB) 151 eliminated the triplicate prescription requirement for Schedule II controlled substances, making CURES permanent.

PDMP introduced as a searchable, client-facing component of CURES.
Relevant Provisions of Law

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) & Attendant Regulations
42 U.S.C. §§ 1320d to 1320d-8, and 45 CFR 164, et seq.

California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act
CA Civil Code §§ 56 to 56.16

California Information Practices Act
CA Civil Code § 1798, et seq.

CURES Legislation
CA Health and Safety Code § 11165, et seq.
California Health and Safety Code Section § 11165.1 (a) (1)

A licensed health care practitioner eligible to prescribe Schedules II through IV controlled substances or a pharmacist may provide a notarized application . . . to access information stored on the Internet regarding the controlled substance history of a patient maintained within the Department of Justice, and the Department may release to that practitioner or pharmacist, the electronic history of controlled substances dispensed to an individual under his or her care based on data contained in the CURES Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.
California Health and Safety Code Section § 11165 (a)

To assist law enforcement and regulatory agencies in their efforts to control the diversion and resultant abuse of Schedule II, Schedule III, and Schedule IV controlled substances...the Department of Justice shall...maintain the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) for the electronic monitoring of, and Internet access to information regarding, the prescribing and dispensing of Schedule II, Schedule III, and Schedule IV controlled substances by all practitioners authorized to prescribe or dispense these controlled substances.
For each prescription for a Schedule II, Schedule III, or Schedule IV controlled substance, as defined in the controlled substances schedules in federal law and regulations, specifically Sections 1308.12, 1308.13, and 1308.14, respectively, of Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the dispensing pharmacy or clinic shall provide the . . . information to the Department of Justice on a weekly basis and in a format specified by the Department of Justice: . . .
CURES shall operate under existing provisions of law to safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of patients. Data obtained from CURES shall only be provided to appropriate state, local, and federal persons or public agencies for disciplinary, civil, or criminal purposes and to other agencies or entities, as determined by the Department of Justice, for the purpose of educating practitioners and others in lieu of disciplinary, civil, or criminal actions.
California Health and Safety Code Section § 11165 (c) [Continued]

Data may be provided to public or private entities, as approved by the Department of Justice, for educational, peer review, statistical, or research purposes, provided that patient information, including any information that may identify the patient, is not compromised. Further, data disclosed to any individual or agency as described in this subdivision shall not be disclosed, sold, or transferred to any third party.
CURES stores and reports Schedule II, III and IV prescription dispensation data reported by dispensers to DOJ.

Pharmacists are required to report dispensations of Schedules II through IV controlled substances at least weekly.

In order to reflect exactly what dispensers report to DOJ, the department does not touch or modify dispenser-reported data.

Presently, the database contains over 100 million entries of controlled substance drugs that have been dispensed in California.
Current System

- Use of the PDMP by prescribers and dispensers for prescription abuse prevention/intervention is *voluntarily*.

- In FY 11/12, the program responded to 1,063,952 requests.

- Provides registered prescribers and dispensers with 12-month Patient Activity Reports (PAR).

- CURES/PDMP information can assist health practitioners identify, intervene, and deter abuse and diversion of Schedule II through IV controlled substances.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dentists</td>
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<td>Osteopathic Physicians</td>
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<td>Podiatrists</td>
<td>1,918</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registered Nurse Midwives (Furnishing)</td>
<td>778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurse Practitioners (Furnishing)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterinarians</td>
<td>10,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribers</td>
<td>174,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacists</td>
<td>38,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>212,631</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PDMP Registrants** 17,508  

*(as of 8/13/13)*
8.23%
Perspective

Medication Reconciliation for Controlled Substances — An “Ideal” Prescription-Drug Monitoring Program

JAMA. 2013;309(13):1408-1410

The United States is in the midst of an epidemic of deaths from prescription opioid and heroin use. Between 1999 and 2010, the use of prescription opioids increased by 40%, and it has become clear that the risk of opioid misuse is correlated with the quantity of opioids being prescribed. This identification of opioid misuse can be attributed to a heightened focus on pain management, reflected in several studies. As a result, it is time to reassess the use of opioids to ensure patient safety and to reduce chronic opioid-related deaths. In this model, physicians, dentists, and nurses are called to play a more active role in evaluating drug use. Furthermore, there are significant benefits to increased opioid prescribing for the benefit of individual patients and to reduce it for the benefit of public health. As health care providers struggling to balance these mandates, we are more than ever advocates for more informed prescribing.

Since 2003, federal legislation has recognized the formation of state-based prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) to track prescribing of opioids to control opioid prescribing. In the pre-intervention era, such programs had limited use, owing to the lack of recognition of their potential in improving patient care, reducing harm, and the voluntary nature of reporting. New health programs are emerging from automated data linkage and increased funding. 47 states currently have operational PDMPs, and 8 have established legislation to develop programs.

The past decade has seen a rise in PDMPs, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration suggested that state-based PDMPs should be expanded. Yet many states have not utilized all state resources and are lagging behind.

The use varies among states and specialties. Research evaluating the impact of these monitoring systems has been limited by the variations and evolution of state PDMP designs. As states develop, evaluate, or expand their PDMP programs, it is worthwhile to analyze the current state of the state in the absence of a state (see table).

Clinical evaluation of a new patient with chronic pain can be difficult. Without a comprehensive pain-management record, although patient history is generally anecdotal and well documented, it may lead to confusion and misdiagnosis. Furthermore, primary care providers who embrace this approach to treating patients with chronic pain are faced with guidelines suggesting the use of pain management approaches, such as non-opioid agents, and to reduce opioid prescribing. Some physicians may feel uncomfortable with the methods implied by the interventions. At the same time, it may find that a highly functional PDMPs are needed to prevent the use of opioids, as well as to reduce the access to opioids. In addition, without the use of PDMPs, patients may identify patients who are more likely to benefit from these interventions.

The success of PDMPs is dependent on a variety of factors, including the ability to identify patients who are at risk for misuse and to implement interventions to reduce their risk. The implementation of PDMPs is critical to ensure the success of these efforts.


3/1/2013
Drs. Perrone and Nelson noted barriers to today’s PDMPs include:

- Time and access issues.
- Complicated application and notarization procedures.
- Prescribers will have to be educated about PDMPs if voluntary compliance is to be improved and routine use encouraged.
CURES Outreach

- CURES staff can assist prescribers and dispensers with the registration process by personally accepting applications directly from individual prescribers and dispensers in lieu of the notarization requirement for groups of $\geq 20$.

- CURES staff can also provide CURES informational presentations and answer questions concerning the CURES program.
The registration process is initiated electronically via a web-based application form.

**HTTP://OAG.CA.GOV/CURES-PDMP**

Select the appropriate registration form according to profession:

- BNE Admin
- BNE Analyst
- DOJ Investigator
- Law Enforcement Agency
- Non-BNE Support
- Pharmacist
- Practitioner
- Regulatory Board

**PDMP Registration**

The California Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), CURES, is committed to assisting in the reduction of pharmaceutical drug diversion without affecting legitimate medical practice and patient care.

The CURES system is designed to identify and deter drug abuse and diversion through accurate and rapid tracking of Schedule II through IV controlled substances. It is a valuable investigative, preventive and educational tool for law enforcement, regulatory boards, educational researchers, and the healthcare community.

The Department of Justice PDMP system allows pre-registered users including licensed healthcare prescribers, pharmacists authorized to dispense controlled substances, law enforcement, and regulatory boards to access real time patient prescription history information to better identify and prevent the abuse of prescription drugs. The role of the PDMP enthusiasts that well informed prescribers and pharmacists can and will use their professional expertise to evaluate their patients care and assist those patients who may be abusing controlled substances.

In order to obtain access to the PDMP System you must submit a registration form electronically. Please be sure to complete the correct form:

- BNE Admin
- BNE Analyst
- DOJ Investigator
- Law Enforcement Agency
- Non-BNE Support
- Pharmacist
- Practitioner
- Regulatory Board

In addition, prescribers and pharmacists must follow up their registration by submitting notarized copies of their Government ID, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Registration, and State Medical License or State Pharmacist License to the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE), P.O. Box 160447, Sacramento, CA 95816, or forgo the notary and present all documents in person at any one of our regional office locations and our BNE personnel will validate and collect your supporting documentation.

**NOTE:** You must call the regional office ahead of time and make an appointment prior to having your documents validated by BNE personnel.
PDMP Registration: Practitioner

Application Instructions
To submit this application, complete the following steps:
Step 1: Complete the online application form then click the 'Submit' button.
Step 2: Upon successful submission of this form, you will see a confirmation page with additional instructions for completing the registration process.

Important Notes
"Indicates Required Fields
Your E-Mail Address will be used for communicating account information and system notifications. It is therefore very important that this be an E-Mail Address that only you have access to and is not accessible by others. If this condition is not met your registration will be denied.
For assistance, contact the Help Desk at (916) 319-9274 or pdmp_registration@doo.ca.gov

Applicant Information:

Last Name * First Name * Date of Birth mmm/dd/yyyy
E-Mail Address * Re-Enter E-Mail Address * Contact Phone *
State Medical License# * NPI#

Specialty * Other Specialty
-- Select One --

Degree * Other Degree
-- Select One --

Address Information
First Address
Business Name * Street Address * County *
Phone# * City * State * Zip * DEA# *

Please check all options that apply to this location *

Account Information
Would you like to receive Notifications/Alerts? *
□ No □ Yes
Must create your own individual answers and not answers that are agency sanctioned

Question * Answer *
In what city or town was your first job? __________________________ __________

Question * Answer *
In what city or town was your first job? __________________________ __________

Question * Answer *
In what city or town was your first job? __________________________ __________

Question * Answer *
In what city or town was your first job? __________________________ __________

Question * Answer *
In what city or town was your first job? __________________________ __________

Application Validation
The CAPTCHA feature requires that you enter both words exactly as they appear, separated by a space. If you cannot read both words simply click the refresh button, which looks like two arrows in a circle, next to the CAPTCHA words and you will be prompted with two new words.

Application Certification
User Agreements
The California Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), CURES, is committed to assisting in the reduction of pharmaceutical drug diversion without affecting legitimate medical practice and patient care. The CURES system is designed to identify and deter drug abuse and diversion through accurate and rapid tracking of Schedule II through IV controlled substances.

I certify the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge.
I accept the terms and conditions of the User Agreements.
□ I CERTIFY/AGREE TO THE ABOVE *

For assistance, contact the Help Desk at (916) 319-9274 or pdmp_registration@doo.ca.gov

Submit Reset
ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION PROCESS STEPS:

Print registration confirmation and have notarized.
Respond to e-mail verification request.
Mail notarized application & required supporting documents to CA DOJ.

Required Documentation:
- Notarized application
- Copy of government-issued identification
- Copy of Medical License (Pharmacy or Regulatory License)
- Copy of Drug Enforcement Administration Registration Approval Notification
Patient Activity Report (PAR)

https://pmp.doj.ca.gov/pdmp/index.do

- Prescribing and dispensing history of Schedule II-IV controlled substances.
- Registered prescribers and dispensers can quickly review a patient’s controlled substance history.
- Enables a prescriber to identify and prevent drug abuse through accurate & rapid tracking.
Patient Activity Report (PAR)

State of California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General

Patient/Client Activity Report
* Indicates Required Fields

Client

Last Name*  
First Name*  
Date of Birth*  mm/dd/yyyy  
Gender  
Address  
City  
State  
Zip  

Period in Months*  

Search Mode

Search Mode  Partial match  Exact match

* I certify, under the penalty of perjury, that I am a licensed healthcare provider and I am authorized to obtain the above mentioned patient's dispensed controlled substance history.
Patient Activity Report (PAR)

Patient/Client Activity Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Middle Initials</th>
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<th>DOB</th>
<th>Address</th>
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Generate Report  Reset

Save Comments  View/Print Report  View/Print Consolidated Report  Reset
## Prescription Drug Transaction Details:

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<th>PHY Name</th>
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<th>Dr.'s DEA #</th>
<th>Dr.'s Name</th>
<th>RX#</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>VICODIN</td>
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Disclaimer: The Patient Activity Report (PAR) is compiled from information maintained in the Department of Justice’s Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES). The CURES maintains Schedule II, Schedule III and Schedule IV prescription information that is received from California Pharmacies and is therefore only as accurate as the information provided by the Pharmacies. If data was submitted with errors or have unknowns within a field, it will not be displayed within this report.
REPORT INFORMATION

- Patient name
- Patient date of birth
- Patient address
- Prescriber name/DEA number
- Pharmacy name/pharmacy license number
- Date prescription was filled
- Prescription number
- Drug name
- Drug quantity and strength
- Number of refills remaining
CURES Program Contacts

California Department of Justice
PDMP/CURES
P.O. Box 160447
Sacramento, California 95816

Phone: (916) 227-3843
FAX: (916) 227-4589
Email: PMP@doj.ca.gov

http://oag.ca.gov/cures-pdmp
QUESTIONS?

Thank You!