



DRUGS, DRUGS, & MORE DRUGS

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Duties of the Ohio Board of Pharmacy

Ø Licensing/Administrative Agency

Ø Law Enforcement Agency

Ø Enforcement Responsibility – ORC
Chapters

2925. – Criminal Drug Laws

3715. – Food & Drug Laws

3719. – Controlled Substance Laws

4729. – Pharmacy/Dangerous Drug Laws

PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

1. Discuss R.Ph. duties & responsibilities when presented with an RX for dispensing
2. Discuss the problem with drugs from an individual state perspective





PRE-TEST ?????? #1

1. A Pharmacist must:
 - a. Fill any RX presented w/o question
 - b. Use independent judgment on **EVERY** RX presented
 - c. Question only those RXs where a definite allergy or overdose exists



PRE-TEST ?????? #2

2. A prescription for oxycodone 30mg #240 written yesterday in Altoona, PA for a patient from Leesburg, VA who drove to Wilmington, DE to pick up the RX is obviously for a legitimate medical purpose and should not be questioned:
 - a. True
 - b. False

PRE-TEST ?????? #3

3. There is a legitimate medical reason for the combination of an opiate, a benzodiazepine, and carisoprodol to be prescribed for several patients by one physician.

- a. True
- b. False





PHARMACY'S TWO MOST IMPORTANT RULES FOR PRACTICE



**MOST IMPORTANT RULE FOR
PRACTICE**

**ALWAYS, ALWAYS,
ALWAYS ACT IN
THE BEST
INTERESTS OF
YOUR PATIENT**



**MOST IMPORTANT RULE FOR
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**ALWAYS ACT IN THE
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**Sometimes, that means
saying “NO”**



AND RULE #2 IS?

4729-5-21 OAC & 1306.04 CFR

(A) A prescription, to be valid, must be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an individual prescriber acting in the usual course of his/her professional practice. The responsibility for the proper prescribing is upon the prescriber, but a corresponding responsibility rests with the pharmacist who dispenses the prescription. An order purporting to be a prescription issued not in the usual course of bona fide treatment of a patient is not a prescription and the person knowingly dispensing such a purported prescription, as well as the person issuing it, shall be subject to the penalties of law.

PILL MILLS –OHIO

Case study about an Ohio doctor and
Pharmacists:



PILL MILLS –OHIO

Case study about an Ohio doctor:



PILL MILLS

Case study about an early Ohio pill mill operation



In less than 11 months two prescribers; three chiropractors; and four pharmacists, were responsible for the distribution of over two million doses of the popular street drugs hydrocodone 10mg and carisoprodol 350mg. These nine Ohio health care professionals, collectively, earned over \$2.1 million from the more than 2,600 Kentucky and West Virginia patients they had seen in their rural north central Ohio practices. Patients drove over ten hours, round trip, monthly, to obtain these drugs, which have a street value of more than \$15 million.

During a 10 Day Surveillance

- In excess of 600 vehicles arrived at PPMO
- 28 vehicles were from West Virginia.
- 73 vehicles were from Ohio (Of these, only 28 were from the New Philadelphia area).
- **499 vehicles were from Kentucky.**



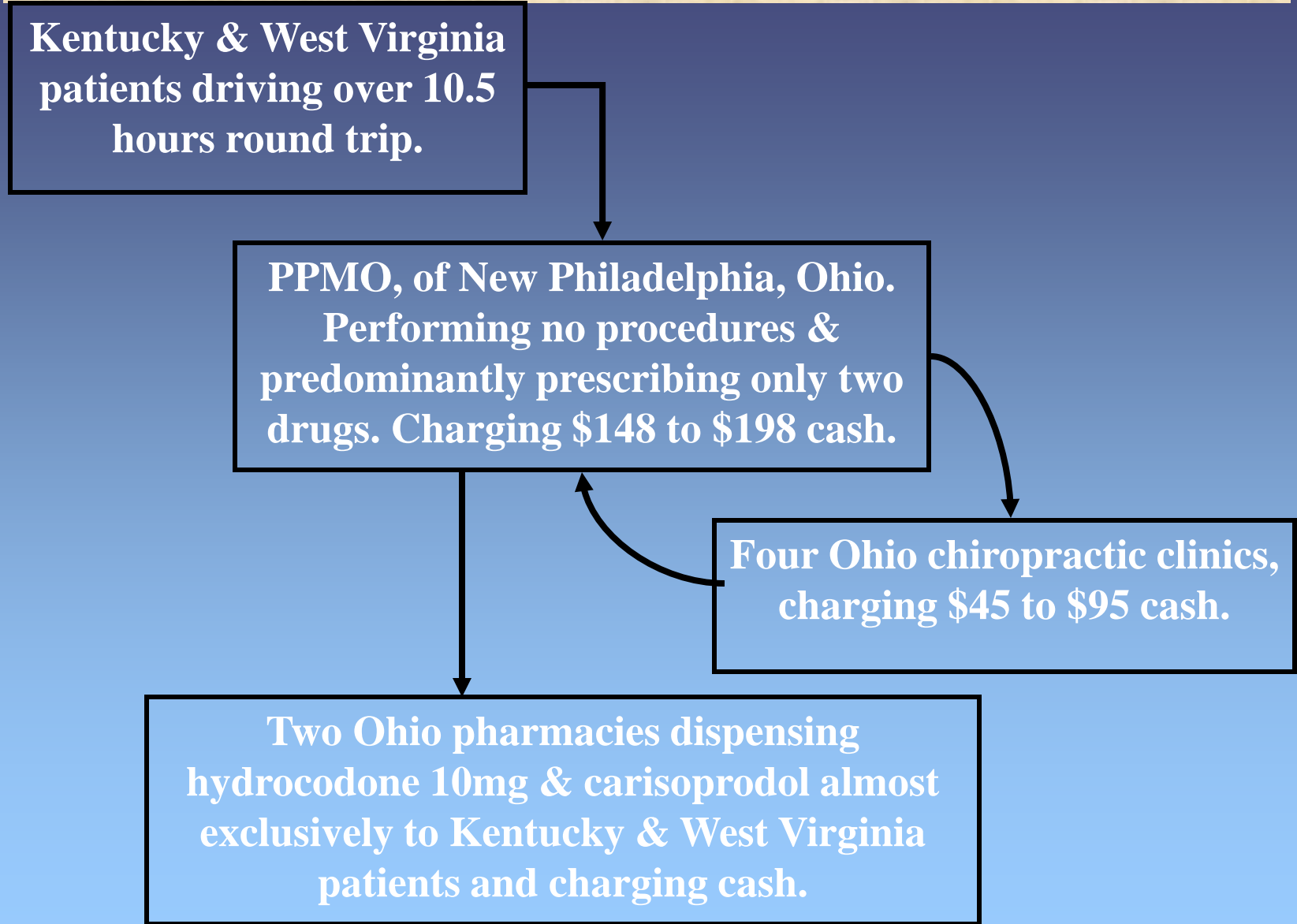
The PPMO Scheme

Kentucky & West Virginia patients driving over 10.5 hours round trip.

PPMO, of New Philadelphia, Ohio. Performing no procedures & predominantly prescribing only two drugs. Charging \$148 to \$198 cash.

Four Ohio chiropractic clinics, charging \$45 to \$95 cash.

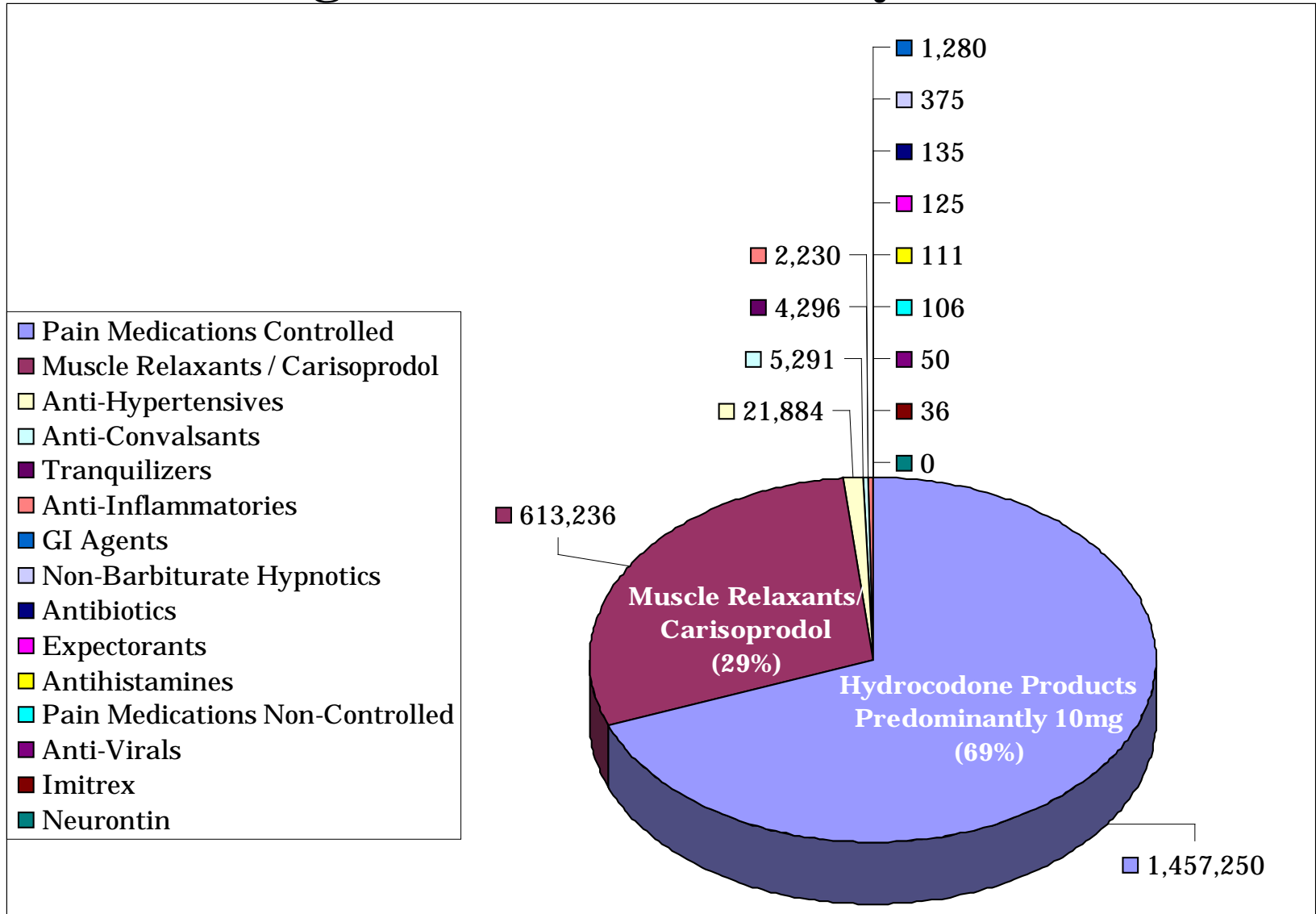
Two Ohio pharmacies dispensing hydrocodone 10mg & carisoprodol almost exclusively to Kentucky & West Virginia patients and charging cash.



A Typical PPMO Patient Dispensing Profile

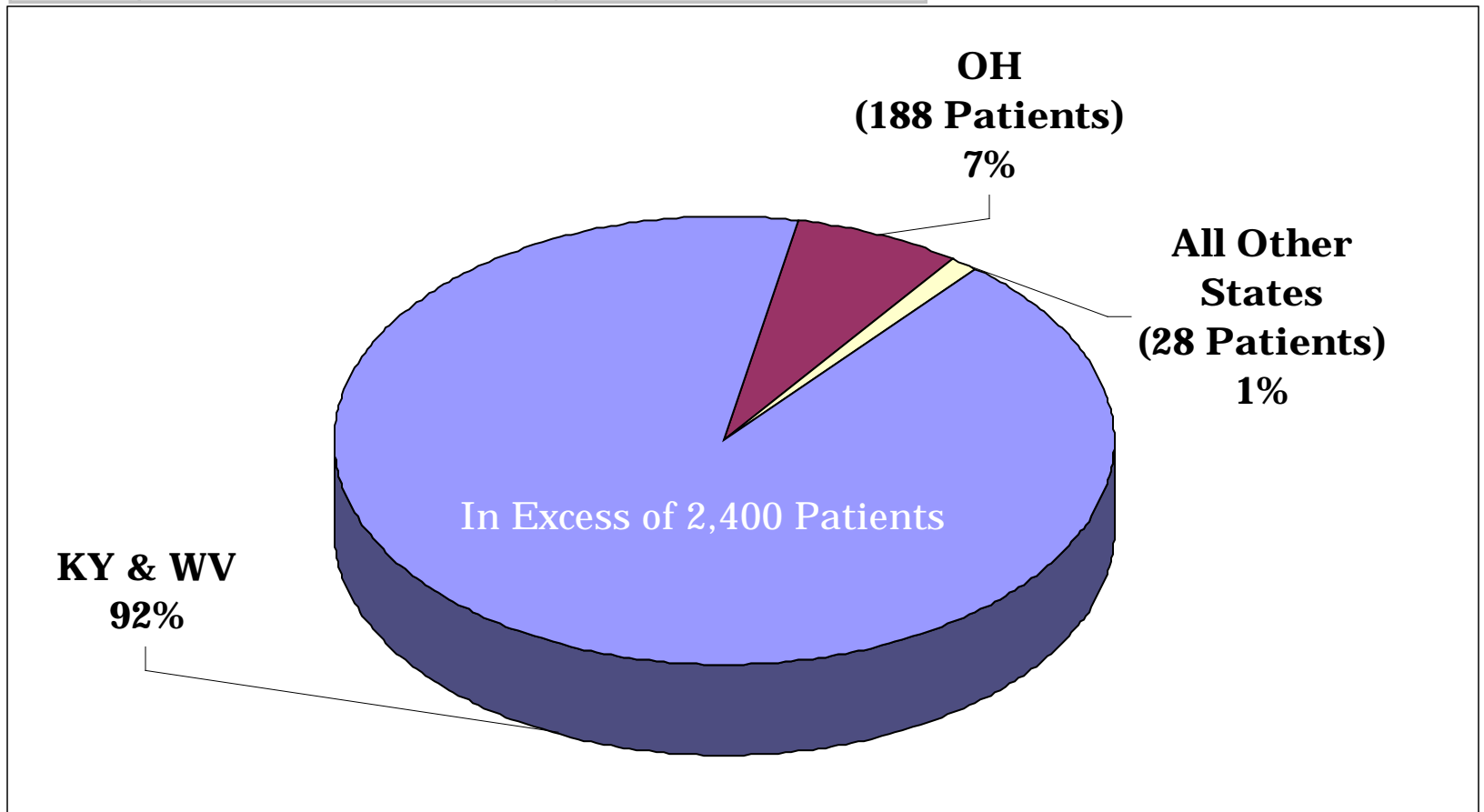
Patient ID	Dispensing Date	Drug	Qty. Disp.	Dr.Last
1468	04/25/2003	CARISOPRODOL 350 MG TABLET	60	DEHAAS
1468	04/25/2003	HYDRCDN/APAP 10/650 G TAB	150	DEHAAS
1468	05/19/2003	CARISOPRODOL 350 MG TABLET	60	DEHAAS
1468	05/19/2003	HYDRO/BIT/APAP 10MG/650MG	150	DEHAAS
1468	06/13/2003	CARISOPRODOL 350 MG TABLET	60	DEHAAS
1468	06/13/2003	HYDRCDN/APAP 10/650 G TAB	150	DEHAAS
1468	07/10/2003	CARISOPRODOL 350 MG TABLET	60	DEHAAS
1468	07/10/2003	HYDRCDN/APAP 10/650 G TAB	150	DEHAAS
1468	08/05/2003	CARISOPRODOL 350MG WATS	90	NAPOLI
1468	08/05/2003	HYDRCDN/APAP 10/650 G TAB	150	DEHAAS
1468	09/05/2003	CARISOPRODOL 350 MG TABLET	90	DEHAAS
1468	09/05/2003	HYDRCDN/APAP 10/650 G TAB	150	DEHAAS
1468	10/01/2003	CARISOPRODOL 350 MG TABLET	90	NAPOLI
1468	10/01/2003	HYDRCDN/APAP 10/650 G TAB	150	NAPOLI
1468	11/20/2003	CARISOPRODOL 350 MG TABLET	90	NAPOLI
1468	11/20/2003	HYDRO/BIT/APAP 10MG/650MG	150	NAPOLI

Solid Dosage Units Authorized by PPMO in 2003



Total Number of PPMO Patients by Selected States

State	# of PPMO Patients	# of PPMO Cities
KY	2322	272
WV	145	41
OH	188	62
AOS	28	n/a



Round Trip Distances & Travel Time

State	City	Round Trip Distance
KY	Louisa	500
KY	Grayson	496
KY	Inez	548
KY	Paintsville	558
KY	Tomahawk	546
KY	Winchester	652
KY	Prestonsburg	582
KY	Hagerhill	562
KY	Mt. Sterling	680
KY	Van Lear	568
WV	Huntington	440
WV	Ft. Gay	498
WV	Lenore	482
WV	Naugatuck	494
WV	Kermit	554
WV	Crum	540
OH	Columbus	236
OH	Grove City	250
OH	Proctorville	436

Out-of-State Patients

Averaged 537 Miles Each Trip with 10.6 Hours of Travel Time

Pharmacy Red Flags

1. Vast majority of a prescriber's patients coming from out-of-state and driving over 10.5 hours, round trip.
2. Vast majority of patients coming from the same geographic areas in KY and WV.
3. Prescribers using the same drug regimen for every patient (hydrocodone/apap & carisoprodol).
4. Patients always paying cash.
5. Patients paying with large bills (\$100's).

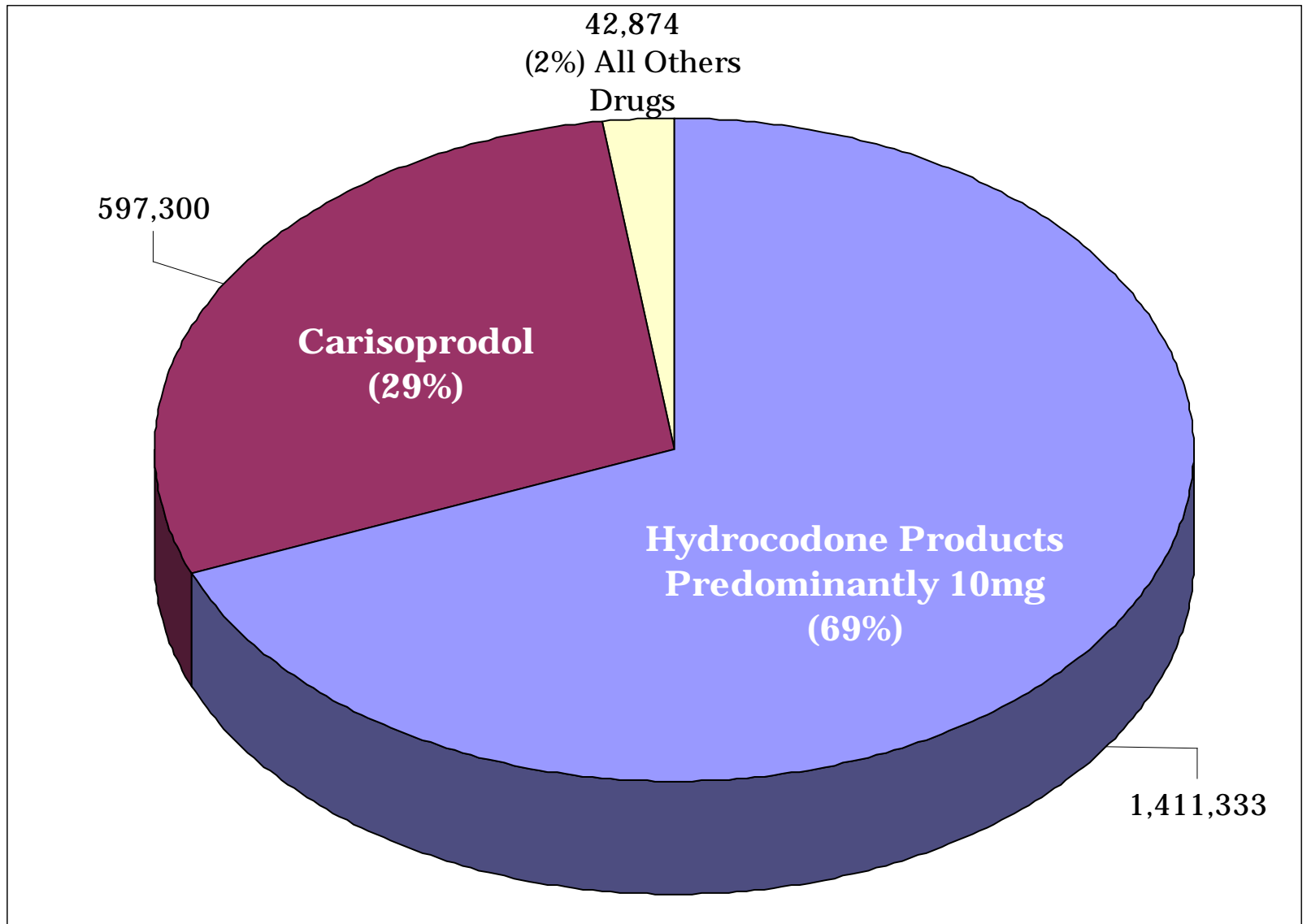
Pharmacy Red Flags

6. Prescribers saying these patients are predominantly poor with no access to good health care.
7. Prescribers telling pharmacist only to accept cash from these patients.
8. Patients coming in groups.
9. Individuals who act as patient "handlers" transporting multiple groups of patients several times each week or each month.
10. Individuals who pay for whole groups of patients prescriptions.

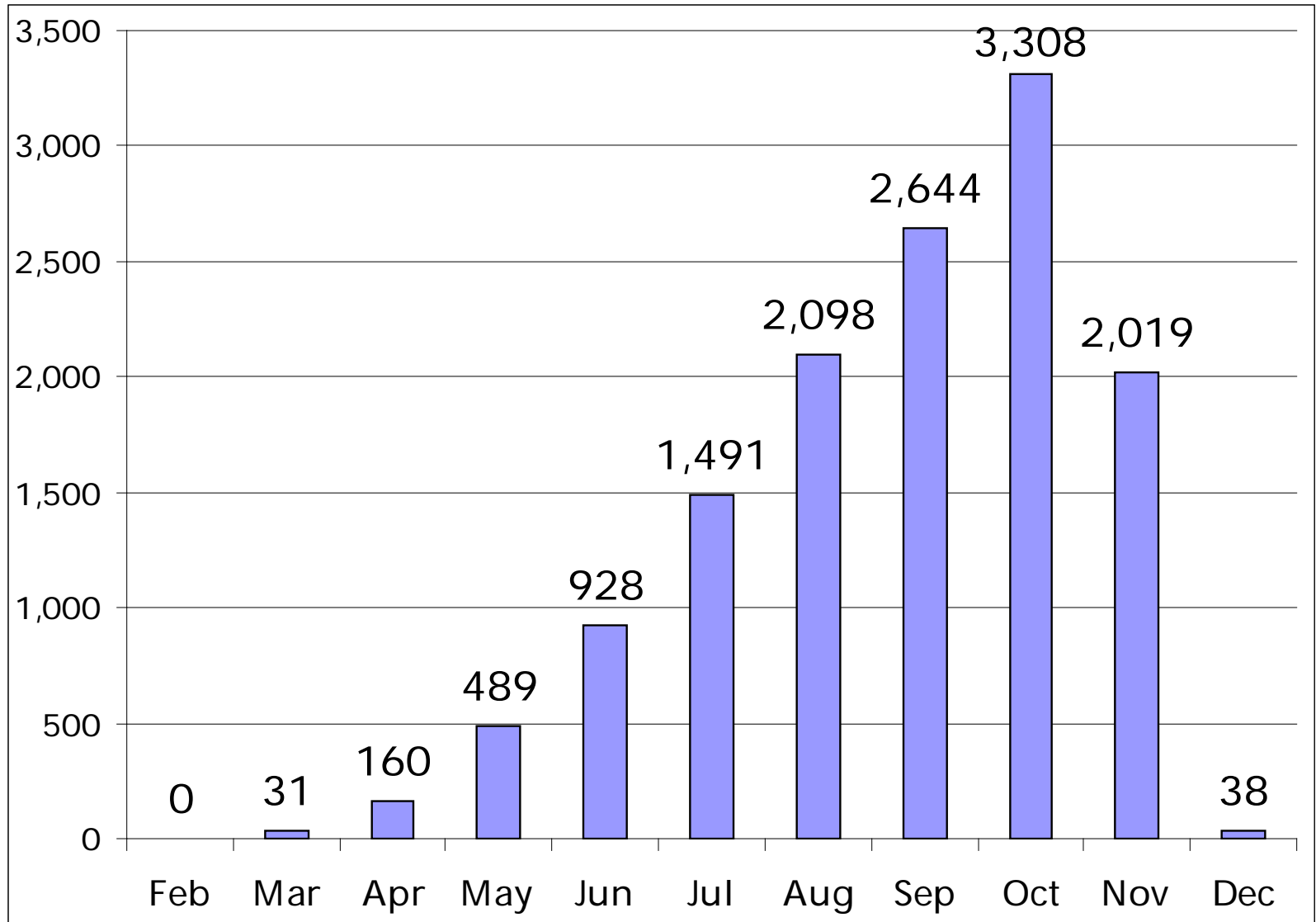
Pharmacy Red Flags

11. Patients requesting specific pill colors or brands of drugs.
12. Prescribers who request their patients receive specific pill colors or brands of drugs.
13. The shoplifting of pill crushers.
14. Multiple family members all going to pain management and receiving the same drug therapy.
15. Patients talking about the street price of drugs.

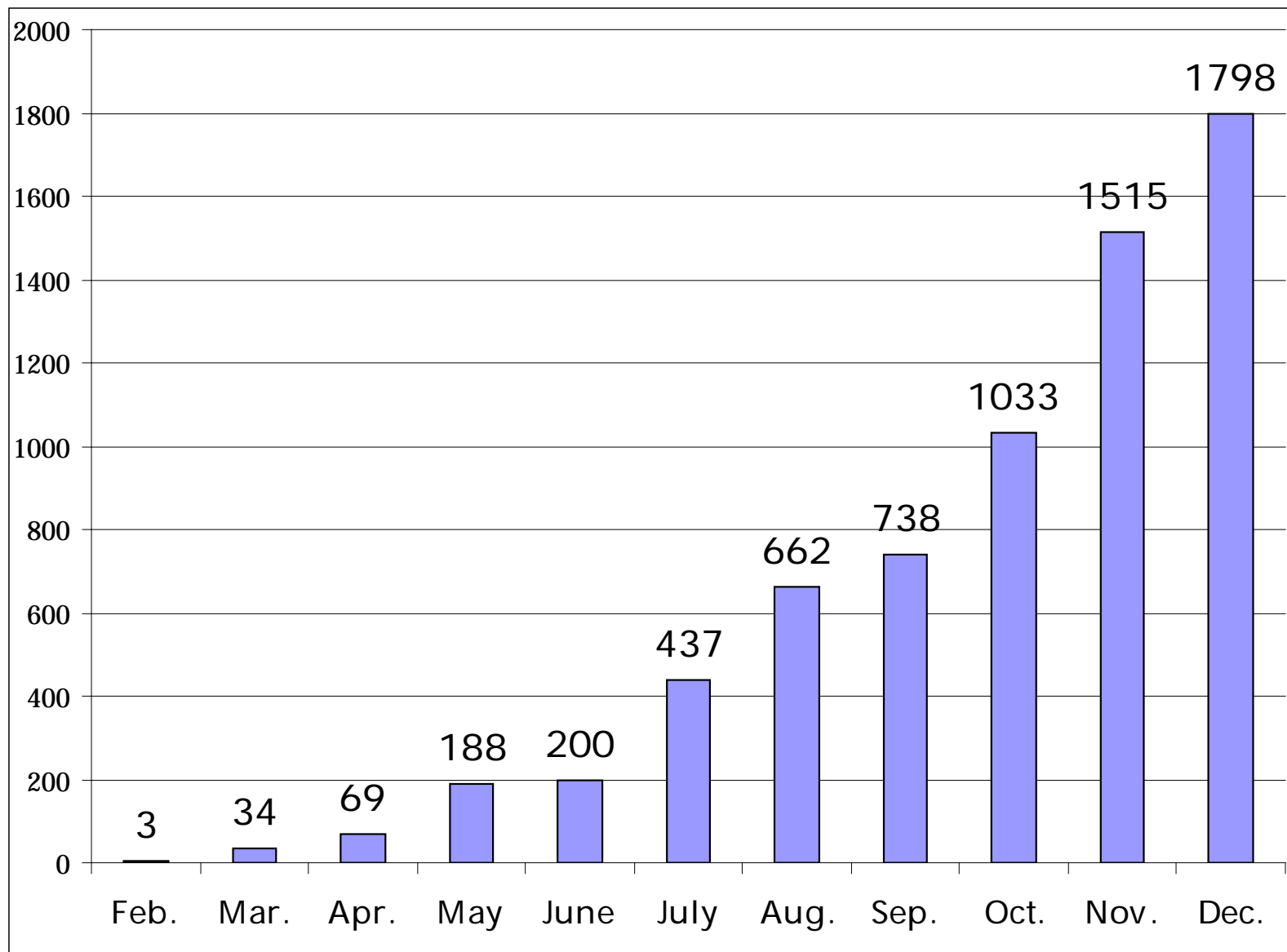
PPMO Drugs Dispensed in Two Ohio Pharmacies in 2003



PPMO 2003 Prescription Growth at Ohio Pharmacy # 1



PPMO 2003 Prescription Growth at Ohio Pharmacy # 2



Wholesale Pharmacy Purchases

Pharmacy # 1 purchased in excess of **845,000** doses of hydrocodone/apap 10mg products from one wholesale source in less than twelve months.

Pharmacy # 1 also purchased in excess of **390,000** doses of carisoprodol 350mg from the same wholesale source over the same time period.

Wholesale Pharmacy Purchases

Pharmacy # 2 purchased in excess of **515,700** doses of hydrocodone/apap 10mg products from one wholesale source in less than twelve months.

Pharmacy # 2 purchased in excess of **221,000** doses of carisoprodol 350mg from the same wholesale source over the same time period.

WHAT ABOUT THE “TRINITY”

- Ø Is there any legitimate reason to prescribe/dispense an opiate, a benzodiazepine, and carisoprodol to one individual?
- Ø Not if you know their indications and metabolism, there isn't!





WHO DECIDES THE VALIDITY OF PRESCRIPTIONS?

DISPENSING PHARMACISTS NEED TO REMEMBER THAT THEY, NOT THEIR DISTRICT SUPERVISOR OR ANYONE ELSE, HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THE “CORRESPONDING RESPONSIBILITY”!!!

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFO?

Ø IF THE PATIENT IS NOT FROM YOUR AREA, QUESTION WHY THEY ARE THERE. IT MAY BE LEGITIMATE – BUT.....

Ø TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

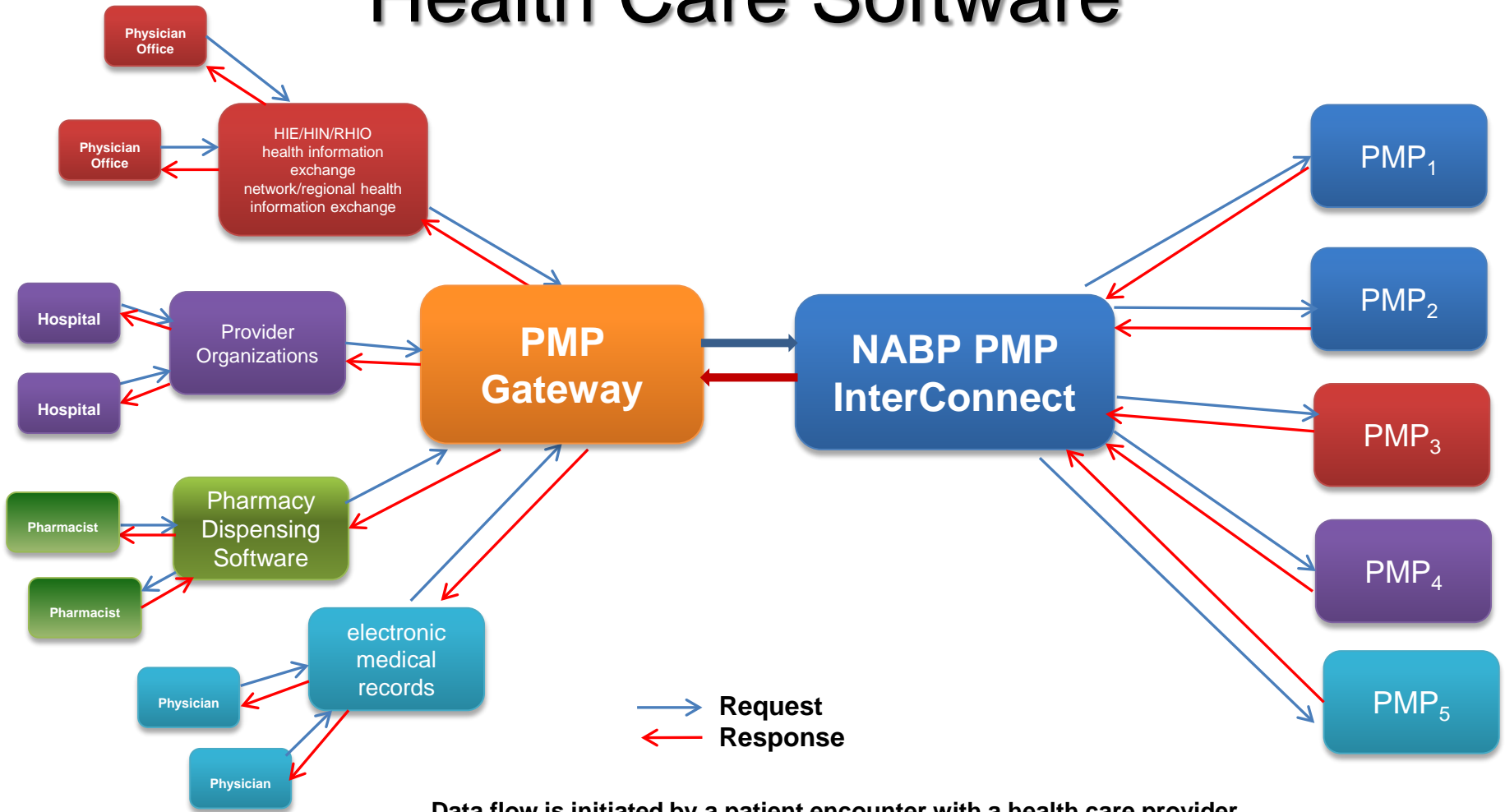
Ø USE YOUR STATE PMP AND THERE'S SOMETHING EXTRA AVAILABLE FROM NABP THAT YOU CAN USE:





- 31 PMPs are actively sharing data: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin.
- 6 states are implementing the connection.
- 3 states and 1 jurisdiction are pending.

PMP Gateway Data Integrated Into Health Care Software



Data flow is initiated by a patient encounter with a health care provider.

Benefits of Workflow Integration

- Prescriber/pharmacist is credentialed by workplace, instead of by the PMP.
- Authentication occurs when logging in to workplace software.
- Workplace software populates the data fields for the request.
- Delivery of request is automatic.
- One-click access.



PMP GATEWAY IS NOW IN PHARMACIES!

PMP Gateway – a service that works in tandem with PMP InterConnect – has been deployed in Kroger pharmacies across Ohio.

Kroger pharmacies in Ohio became the first pharmacy chain to implement use of PMP Gateway in July 2015, and Kroger is deploying the service at its pharmacies in additional states. (11 states now)



**FINAL
REMINDER-**



MOST IMPORTANT RULE FOR PRACTICE

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I'M DONE!

