

NEW PDMP REGULATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

A law was passed during the 2017 legislative session overhauling Georgia's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) database. The purpose of this effort is to reduce duplicative prescribing and overprescribing of controlled substances — specifically opioids and benzodiazepines. The new regulations do NOT apply to stimulants or to non-benzodiazepine sleeping aids.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

By January 1, 2018

Every prescriber with a US DEA registration number must enroll and be a registered user of the PDMP.

- Prescribers already registered DO NOT need to re-register.

Between January 1, 2018 and May 31, 2018

DPH will test the PDMP to assure that it is operational 99.5% of the time.

On July 1, 2018

Prescribers will be required to check PDMP before prescribing opioids or benzodiazepines. (Prescribers are currently encouraged to check the PDMP before prescribing opioids or benzodiazepines, but are not yet required to do so.)

EXCEPTIONS & REQUIREMENTS

Exceptions to prescribers' requirement to update the database:

- the prescription is for no more than a 3-day supply (or 26 pills) of such substance;
- the prescriptions are to be administered and used by a patient on the premises of hospital or healthcare facility;
- the patient has had outpatient surgery and the supply is no more than 10 days (40 pills);
- the patient is in an outpatient hospice program;
- the patient is receiving treatment for cancer.

Prescribers may delegate up to two (2) staff members per shift to have access and update the prescription monitoring database, so long as such individuals are properly licensed or have had a proper criminal record background check — but can be held liable for any misuse of the data.

Prescribers may use data from the PDMP to communicate misuse, report patient to DPH, and document in the health record

Prescribers must make documentation in the medical record of who checked the PDMP and when.

Prescribers must provide patients receiving such prescriptions with information on the addictive risks of opioids.

Prescribers can be held administratively liable for not checking if there is an adverse outcome.

THERE IS NO FELONY PROVISION FOR FAILING TO CHECK THE PDMP.

However, there are a series of escalating penalties for misuse of the PDMP data (for anyone.) Any penalties on a physician would be reported to the Georgia Composite Medical Board.

To register, go to georgia.pmpaware.net/login.

You will need:

- Your name and business address
- Primary phone number
- Last 4 digits of SSN
- DEA number
- NPI number
- Professional license number and
- Type Health care specialty

****The PDMP website works best with the Google Chrome internet browser**