Prescribing Controlled Substances and the PDMP

Jack Kabazie, MD
System Director
Division of Pain Medicine
Allegheny Health Network
Program Director
Pain Medicine Fellowship

Prescribing Guidelines for Pennsylvania (Revised - March 22, 2017)

• Safe Prescribing of Opioids in Orthopedics and Sports Medicine

• Pennsylvania Orthopedic Society- Opioid Recommendations for Acute Pain

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

• Why is it important?
• Why is it mandatory (a law)?
• How does it effect my practice?
• How does it effect my patients?
• What happens if I don’t comply?
Opioids and Orthopedic Surgery

- Orthopedic surgeons are the third highest prescribers of opioids in the United States.
- Therapeutic opioid use before orthopedic surgery is now recognized to be associated with worse clinical outcomes after surgery.
- Patients prescribed opioids for pain one to two months post surgery for musculoskeletal trauma have greater symptoms and disability, more psychological distress, and less effective coping skills than patients who do not take opioids, irrespective of injury, surgical procedure or surgeon.


Drug Overdose by Community Type
One- and 3-year probabilities of continued opioid use among opioid-naïve patients, by number of days’ supply of the first opioid prescription—United States, 2006–2015.

What is a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)?

- A statewide program that collects information about controlled substance prescription drugs that are dispensed to patients within the state.

- Previously, the PDMP required the reporting of Schedule II controlled substances only.

- The new law requires monitoring Schedule II through Schedule V controlled substances.
Purpose of the PDMP

• To be used as a tool to increase quality and patient safety by giving prescribers and dispensers access to a patient’s controlled substance prescription medication history.

• To aid regulatory and law enforcement agencies in the detection and prevention of fraud, drug abuse and the criminal diversion of controlled substances.

PDMP Training for Providers

• All PDF tutorials on how to register, search and use the system are available on the PDMP Portal section of the website.

• A prescriber shall not be required to pay a fee or tax specifically dedicated to the establishment, operation or maintenance of the program.

• All licensed prescribers who are lawfully authorized to distribute, dispense, or administer a controlled substance in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are required to register with the program.

PAPDMP

• There are NO exceptions to registering- by law, every physician licensed to practice in Pennsylvania must register.

  “a prescriber who does not prescribe controlled substances still needs to register for the system and is required to query the system if they believe or have reason to believe, using sound clinical judgement that a patient may be Abusing or diverting drugs.”
Requirements for Prescribers

- **Required to query** the PDMP for an existing patient when the following clinical situations apply:
  - The **first time** the patient is prescribed a controlled substance by the prescriber for purposes of establishing a baseline and a thorough medical record.
  - If a prescriber believes or has reason to believe that a patient may be abusing or diverting drugs.
  - Each time a patient is prescribed an opioid drug product or benzodiazepine by the prescriber.

- These requirements apply to the following:
  - Inpatient or outpatient settings
  - To acute or anticipated chronic controlled substance(s) prescriptions
  - To new or established patients;
  - In situations where the prescriber is seeing his/her own patient or is covering for a colleague.
  - Checking the PDMP is not required for any medication provided in the course of treatment while undergoing care in an emergency department.

PDMP and Health Care Facilities

- The PDMP system must be queried at least once from the time of admission through discharge when a patient is prescribed a controlled substance as required by law.
- Beyond the initial query, additional queries of the system are not required as long as the patient remains admitted to the facility or remains in observation status in the facility.
Failing to Check the PDMP

- If prescribers improperly use the system, including knowingly or intentionally obtaining information for purposes other than for treatment or dispensation of controlled substances, they are subject to civil and/or criminal penalties. Act 191(ABC-MAP) Section 10

- Failure to comply with the mandates could result in disciplinary action against one's professional license.

DO’S and DON’T’S

- If using a delegate- they should understand the “appropriate” use of the site.
- If using a delegate- Be sure the physician closely reviews the query results.
- No printing if possible
- If not possible, and results are printed, must be reviewed and should be immediately destroyed.
- Do not scan into chart.

Recording Information In the Medical Record

- A prescriber shall indicate the information obtained from the system in the patient’s medical record if:
  1. The individual is a new patient.
  2. The prescriber determines a drug should not be prescribed or furnished to a patient based upon the information from the system.
Recording Information
In the Medical Record

• Documentation examples:
  – "Checked the PA PDMP; no red flags identified; safe to proceed with prescription."
  – "Checked the PA PDMP; opted not to prescribe a narcotic after determining patient had filled six prescriptions from four different prescribers over the past five weeks. Discussed findings with patient."

Consent for Minors

Reference