

BACKGROUND

[Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs](#) (PDMPs) are electronic databases that collect information on the dispensing and prescribing of drugs within jurisdictions. PDMPs aim to assist patients in their quality of care by allowing prescribers and dispensers access to the patient's controlled substance prescription medication history. This access to individual prescription history helps alert health care professionals to potential dangers of treatment choices. As states design their own PDMPs, types of prescription drugs tracked by PDMPs vary across states.

DRUG SCHEDULING

- **Schedule I** drugs do not have an accepted medical use and have a high potential for abuse. Examples include heroin and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD).
- **Schedule II** drugs have a high potential for abuse, which could lead to a psychological or physical dependence. Examples include Vicodin, methamphetamine, methadone, meperidine (Demerol), oxycodone (OxyContin), fentanyl, Adderall and Ritalin.
- **Schedule III** drugs have a moderate to low potential for dependence and include drugs with less than 90 milligrams of codeine per dosage unit. Examples include anabolic steroids and testosterone.
- **Schedule IV** drugs have a low potential for abuse and a low risk of dependence. Examples include Xanax, Soma, Darvon, Valium, and Tramadol.
- **Schedule V** drugs have an even lower potential for abuse, but may include a limited quantity of narcotics. Examples include some cough medicines (Robitussin AC) and Lyrica.

WHAT DRUGS DO PDMPs MONITOR?

PDMPs track Schedule II, III and IV drugs in every state, and Schedule V drugs in 33 states and D.C., including Pennsylvania.

PDMPs may also monitor non-scheduled drugs due to their common misuse beyond prescribed purposes:

- **Butalbital:** Some states have elected to monitor Butalbital, a sedative that decreases anxiety and causes sleepiness, due to its potential for abuse, dependency, and withdrawal.
- **Gabapentin:** Policymakers are increasingly interested in monitoring [Gabapentin](#) due to a recent uptick in Gabapentin prescriptions and its regular involvement in overdoses. As a drug that can curb opioid withdrawals and lessen the effects of medications used for addiction treatment, Gabapentin is widely misused. Seven states' PDMPs currently monitor Gabapentin.
- **Others:** Some state PDMPs also track Ephedrine, human growth hormones, codeine cough syrup, tramadol, and opioid antagonists such as Suboxone, methadone, naloxone, and Naltrexone.