

The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) & Pain Management

Prescribers and pharmacists are able to make more informed clinical decisions by using the results from the PDMP to improve or change a patient's pain management strategy.

PDMP results provide:

- Prescription history information on all Schedule II-V dispensed prescriptions;
 - Information on a patient's recent prescribers and dispensers;
 - Current morphine milligram equivalents of all prescriptions dispensed to a patient; and
 - Method of payment used for prescriptions by the patient.
- 1) Moore, T. M., Jones, T., Browder, J. H., Daffron, S., & Passik, S. D. (2009). A Comparison of Common Screening Methods for Predicting Aberrant Drug-Related Behavior among Patients Receiving Opioids for Chronic Pain Management. *Pain Medicine*, 10(8), 1426-1433.
 - 2) Dowell, D., Haegerich, T. M., & Chou, R. (2016). CDC guideline for prescribing opioids for chronic pain—United States, 2016. *Jama*, 315(15), 1624-1645

How Should a Prescriber or Dispenser Use the PDMP?

The PDMP should be used to:

- Discuss a patient's prescriptions to make sure he/she is aware of how opioids are used in pain management and the risks and harms associated with therapy;
- Engage a patient in a discussion about when it would be appropriate to taper off of opioids or to a lower dosage;
- Monitor total morphine milligram equivalents/day dosage of all current opioids;
- Monitor for signs and evidence of misuse and/or risky behavior;
- Refer a patient to substance or opioid use disorder treatment, if necessary;
- Avoid any potentially harmful drug-drug interactions (e.g., opioid and benzodiazepine or an opioid and a stimulant); and
- Discuss alternative pain management strategies before referring a patient to substance use disorder treatment.

