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.

**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.