



DATE:	01/25/2017
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Karen M. Murphy, PhD, RN, Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	New PA PDMP Requirements
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
LOCATION:	Statewide
STREET ADDRESS:	Statewide
COUNTY:	Statewide
MUNICIPALITY:	Statewide
ZIP CODE:	Statewide

This transmission is a “Health Advisory” that provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL, PHARMACY, NURSING, ADMINISTRATION AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL.

EMS COUNCILS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE.

FQHCs: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE.

LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP.



Learn how the new PA PDMP requirements impact you!

Effective January 1, 2017, new legislative changes to the Pennsylvania Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PA PDMP) took effect, which impact both prescribers and dispensers.

Here is what you need to know:

- Registration with the PA PDMP program is now required for all prescribers and dispensers licensed in the commonwealth. If you have not already registered, please [click here to do so](#).
- **Prescribers** must now query the PA PDMP each time a patient is prescribed an opioid drug product or benzodiazepine by the prescriber. Prescribers must continue to query the PA PDMP:
 - For each patient the first time the patient is prescribed a controlled substance by the prescriber for purposes of establishing a baseline and a thorough medical record; or
 - If a prescriber believes or has reason to believe, using sound clinical judgment, that a patient may be abusing or diverting drugs.
- **Dispensing prescribers or pharmacies** must now submit data to the PA PDMP no later than the close of the subsequent business day (Monday through Friday) after dispensing the controlled substance, as opposed to the previous requirement of within 72 hours. [Click here for updated data dispensation guidelines](#).
- Lawfully authorized **dispensers and pharmacists** also now have the following query requirements before dispensing an opioid drug product or a benzodiazepine prescribed to a patient if any of the following apply:
 - The patient is a new patient of the dispenser;
 - The patient pays cash when they have insurance;
 - The patient requests a refill early; or
 - The patient is getting opioid drug products or benzodiazepines from more than one prescriber.

For a more complete understanding of all the recent legislative changes, please [click here](#).

If I haven't yet registered, how do I do so?

Registration for the PA PDMP is a straightforward process. [Click here to get started!](#) **You**

can also grant access to delegates employed by you or under your supervision to check the system on your behalf. To learn more about who can be your delegate, please visit the [PA PDMP website](#). You will also find [registration tutorials](#) on the website.

Where do I go to learn more?

As always, we encourage you to stay up-to-date on all PA PDMP information by visiting our website's [Frequently Asked Questions page](#). The PA PDMP office is constantly updating this information to keep you informed.

For questions regarding registration or data submission, please contact the support team directly at 855-572-4767 (855-5PA-4PMP). Technical assistance is currently available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year.

For policy related questions, you may reach the PA PDMP office directly by calling 844-377-7367 (844-377-PDMP) from Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST or by emailing us at RA-DH-PDMP@pa.gov.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to reducing the drug abuse epidemic in Pennsylvania.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

This information is current as of January 25, 2017, but may be modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.
