

GA Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Law Update
Effective Date 7-1-2017, unless otherwise specified

Effective July 1, 2017:

Dispenser Requirement (retail pharmacies/dispensing prescribers):

Dispensers must report filled controlled substances Rx data to the PDMP at least every 24 hours

- Nothing shall require a dispenser to obtain information about a patient from the PDMP, provided however, that dispensers are encouraged to obtain such information while keeping in mind that the purpose of such data base includes reducing duplicative prescribing and overprescribing of controlled substances.

Prescribers and Dispensers:

- Members of a prescriber's or dispenser's staff or health care facility can register to obtain PDMP data for the prescriber or dispenser if they are licensed/registered under various prescriber/dispenser licensing boards, or they are prescriber employees annually registered with the Board of Pharmacy.

- Not more than two individuals who are members per shift or rotation of the prescriber's or dispenser's staff or employed at the health care facility in which the prescriber is practicing

- In any hospital which provides emergency services, each prescriber may designate two individuals, per shift or rotation, who are employed or contracted by such hospital so long as the medical director of such hospital has authorized the particular individuals for such access.

- PDMP data must be maintained in a secure and confidential manner as required by this code section

- The prescriber or dispenser will be held civilly and criminally responsible for misuse of data by their employees;

- PDMP data can be included in a patient's electronic health or medical records (dispenser and prescriber)

Effective January 1, 2018:

Prescriber Requirement:

- *Each GA prescriber with a DEA shall register to use the PDMP no later than January 1, 2018 and is encouraged to register as soon as possible after July 1, 2017*

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Effective January 1, 2018: (continued)

Prescriber Requirement: (continued)

- Beginning January 1, 2018, every new DEA prescriber registrants must register with the PDMP within 30 days of obtaining a DEA permit

Between January 1, 2018 and May 31, 2018:

- Between 1-1-2018 and 5-31-2018 DPH will randomly test the PDMP to ensure it is accessible 99.5% of the time

Effective July 1, 2018:

- On or after July 1, 2018, any person initially prescribing a schedule II opioid or any benzodiazepine shall seek and review a patient's PDMP information, then at least once every 90 days thereafter, unless the:

- Rx is for no more than a 3 day supply of each drug and no more than 26 'pills'
 - Patient is an inpatient in a hospital, LTCF, hospice, personal care home, etc. to be administered and used by the patient on the premises of the facility
 - Patient had out-patient surgery, and the Rx is for no more than a 10 day supply or 40 'pills'
 - Patient is terminally ill and in an outpatient hospice
 - Patient is being treated for cancer
- Prescribers who violate the requirement to check the PDMP will be held administratively liable to their licensing board*
- Prescribers making sure inquires shall notate same in the patient's medical record*
- A prescriber issuing opioid prescriptions shall provide information to patients on the risks of using opioid and information on proper disposal of opioid*