

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PHARMACISTS

## FOR DISPENSING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, FROM THE DELAWARE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION



- The Delaware Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) is a tool that allows pharmacists to easily search for the controlled substance prescription history of their patients.
- The purpose of the PMP is to prevent misuse and diversion while promoting improved professional practice and patient care.
- The Office of Controlled Substances, in collaboration with various state and federal agencies, uses the data collected in the PMP to identify trends in prescribing and dispensing. When concerning trends are identified, the Office of Controlled Substances will refer the matter to the appropriate licensing or law-enforcement agency for investigation.
- Registration with the PMP is required, is free, and takes most people less than five minutes.
- When a pharmacist has a reasonable belief that a patient may be seeking a controlled substance for any reason other than the treatment of a medical condition, they are required to search the PMP before dispensing the prescription.
- The PMP provides patient risk assessment scores to help pharmacists quickly assess whether their patient may be at risk for misuse or unintentional overdose death.
- PMP risk scores are not abuse scores.
- PMP risk scores and reports are provided to trigger a discussion and not a decision. Pharmacists may not provide PMP reports to patients, attorneys, insurance companies, law enforcement, or any other requestor. If anyone requests information from the PMP, the pharmacist should refer them to the Office of Controlled Substances.
- Each patient report page displays a resources section for information on the closest medication-assisted treatment (MAT) providers as well as educational materials.
- Substance use disorder facts from the National Institutes of Health:
  - » Substance use disorders are chronic diseases that affect a person's brain function and behavior.
  - » Medications including buprenorphine, methadone, and extended-release naltrexone are effective for treating opioid use disorders.
  - » Medications such as buprenorphine and methadone do not substitute one addiction for another; they restore balance to a brain affected by addiction and allow the brain to recover.
  - » MAT decreases opioid use, opioid-related overdose deaths, criminal activity, and infectious disease transmission.
  - » MAT improves outcomes for the babies of opioid-dependent pregnant women.
- Opioid overdoses can occur suddenly. Pharmacists have a duty to educate their patients on the proper use and effectiveness of opioids.
- Naloxone (also available as Narcan and Evzio) is a lifesaving medication used to reverse the effects of an overdose caused by opioid misuse.
- Pharmacists can dispense naloxone by prescription or by standing order, and should consult with the pharmacy manager to verify the proper steps for dispensing naloxone under a standing order. For more information on how pharmacies can participate in the standing order, visit <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/standingorders.html>.

