TYPES OF AUTHORIZED RECIPIENTS – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Introduction

Each state determines by statute or regulation the persons or entities entitled to access or receive information in the prescription monitoring program database in that particular state. This memorandum sets out those states that allow access to or receipt of database information by the state Department of Health or Commissioner of Public Safety. This does not mean that if a particular state is not listed in this memorandum or the accompanying map that those entities in that state are not allowed access to the information. The following states either specifically include the Department of Health or Commissioner of Public Safety in the list of persons or entities entitled to access or NAMSDL was informed by the administrator of the state prescription monitoring program that such persons are allowed access.

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New Mexico
ADC 16.19.29

Code of New Mexico Rules (2013)
Title 16. Occupational and Professional Licensing
Chapter 19. Pharmacists
Part 29. Controlled Substance Prescription Monitoring Program

16.19.29. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM

16.19.29.1 ISSUING AGENCY: Regulation and Licensing Department - Board of Pharmacy.

[16.19.29.1 NMAC - N, 07-15-04]

16.19.29.2 SCOPE: All persons or entities that dispense controlled substances pursuant to prescriptions from practitioners.

[16.19.29.2 NMAC - N, 07-15-04]

16.19.29.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Section 30-31-16 of the Controlled Substance Act.30-31-1 through 30-31-42 NMSA 1978, authorizes the board of pharmacy to promulgate regulations and charge reasonable fees regarding controlled substances. 30-31-16 authorizes the board to collect information regarding controlled substances.

[16.19.29.3 NMAC - N, 07-15-04]

16.19.29.4 DURATION: Permanent.

[16.19.29.4 NMAC - N, 07-15-04]

16.19.29.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: 07-15-04, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.

[16.19.29.5 NMAC - N, 07-15-04]

16.19.29.6 OBJECTIVE: The objective of Part 29 of Chapter 19 is to promote the public health and welfare by detecting and preventing substance abuse and encouraging appropriate treatment of pain and other conditions for which controlled substances are prescribed. The purpose of the system is to improve access to controlled substances for legitimate medical needs by allowing a practitioner or a pharmacist to obtain a patient's pharmaceutical history related to controlled substances. The program's objectives will include education of the public and health care professionals regarding the nature and extent of the problem of drug abuse, appropriate prescribing and use of controlled substances, and the medical treatment options for abusers of controlled substances and pain management.

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16.19.29.9 ACCESS TO PRESCRIPTION INFORMATION: Practitioners registered with the program may designate one delegate per practice site to register with the program for the purpose of requesting and receiving reports for the practitioner.

A. Prescription information submitted to the board shall be confidential and not subject to public or open records laws, except as provided in Subsections C, D and E of 16.19.29.9 NMAC.

B. The board shall maintain procedures to ensure that the privacy and confidentiality of patients and patient information collected, recorded, transmitted, and maintained is not disclosed to persons except as in Subsection C, D, and E of this 16.19.29.9 NMAC.

C. After receiving a complaint, the board inspectors shall review the relevant prescription information. If there is reasonable cause to believe a violation of law or breach of professional standards may have occurred, the board shall notify the appropriate law enforcement or professional licensing, certification or regulatory agency or entity, and provide prescription information required for an investigation.

D. The board will establish written protocols for reviewing the prescription data reported. These protocols will be reviewed and approved by the board as needed but at least once every calendar year. These protocols will define information to be screened, frequency and thresholds for screening and the parameters for using the data. Data will be used to notify providers, patients and pharmacies to educate, provide for patient management and treatment options.

E. The board shall be authorized to provide data in the prescription monitoring program to the following persons:

(1) persons authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances, for the purpose of providing medical or pharmaceutical care for their patients;

(2) an individual who request's their own prescription monitoring information in accordance with procedures established under 61-11-2.D NMSA, 1978 and Subsection G of 16.19.6.23 NMAC;

(3) New Mexico medical board, New Mexico board of nursing, New Mexico board of veterinary medicine, New Mexico board of dental health care, board of examiners in optometry, osteopathic examiners board, acupuncture & oriental medicine board, and podiatry board for their licensees;

(4) professional licensing authorities of other states if their licensees practice in the state or prescriptions provided by their licensees are dispensed in the state;

(5) local, state and federal law enforcement or prosecutorial officials engaged in an ongoing investigation of an individual in the enforcement of the laws governing licit drugs;

(6) human services department regarding medicaid program recipients;

(7) metropolitan, district, state or federal court(s) under grand jury subpoena or criminal court order;

(8) personnel of the board for purposes of administration and enforcement of this regulation, or 16.19.20 NMAC or;

(9) the controlled substance monitoring program of another state or group of states with whom the state has established an interoperability agreement;

(10) a parent to have access to the prescription records about his or her minor child, as his or her minor child's personal representative when such access is not inconsistent with state or other laws;

(11) the board shall use de-identified data obtained from the prescription drug monitoring database to identify and report to state and local public health authorities the geographic areas of the state where anomalous prescribing dispensing or use of controlled substances is occurring.

(12) the board shall share prescription drug monitoring database data with the department of health for the purpose of tracking inappropriate prescribing and misuse of controlled substances, including drug overdose.

F. The board shall provide data to public or private entities for statistical, research, or educational purposes after removing information that could be used to identify individual patients and persons who have received prescriptions from dispensers.

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New York
Public Health Law § 3371

McKinney's Consolidated Laws of New York Annotated (2013)
Public Health Law
Chapter 45. Of the Consolidated Laws
Article 33. Controlled Substances
Title VI. Records and Reports

§ 3371. Confidentiality of certain records, reports, and information

1. No person, who has knowledge by virtue of his or her office of the identity of a particular patient or research subject, a manufacturing process, a trade secret or a formula shall disclose such knowledge, or any report or record thereof, except:

(a) to another person employed by the department, for purposes of executing provisions of this article;

(b) pursuant to judicial subpoena or court order in a criminal investigation or proceeding;

(c) to an agency, department of government, or official board authorized to regulate, license or otherwise supervise a person who is authorized by this article to deal in controlled substances, or in the course of any investigation or proceeding by or before such agency, department or board;

(d) [Eff. until Aug. 27, 2013. See, also, par. (d) below.] to a central registry established pursuant to this article; and

(d) [Eff. Aug. 27, 2013. See, also, par. (d) above.] to the prescription monitoring program registry and to authorized users of such registry as set forth in subdivision two of this section;

(e) [Eff. until Aug. 27, 2013. See, also, par. (e) below.] to a practitioner to inform him or her that a patient may be under treatment with a controlled substance by another practitioner.

(e) [Eff. Aug. 27, 2013. See, also, par. (e) above.] to a practitioner to inform him or her that a patient may be under treatment with a controlled substance by another practitioner for the purposes of subdivision two of this section, and to facilitate the department's review of individual challenges to the accuracy of controlled substances histories pursuant to subdivision six of section thirty-three hundred forty-three-a of this article;

(f) [Eff. Aug. 27, 2013.] to a pharmacist to provide information regarding prescriptions for controlled substances presented to the pharmacist for the purposes of subdivision two of this section and to facilitate the department's review of individual challenges to the accuracy of

controlled substances histories pursuant to subdivision six of section thirty-three hundred forty-three-a of this article;

(g) [Eff. Aug. 27, 2013.] to the deputy attorney general for medicaid fraud control, or his or her designee, in furtherance of an investigation of fraud, waste or abuse of the Medicaid program, pursuant to an agreement with the department;

(h) [Eff. Aug. 27, 2013.] to a local health department for the purpose of conducting public health research or education: (i) pursuant to an agreement with the commissioner; (ii) when the release of such information is deemed appropriate by the commissioner; (iii) for use in accordance with measures required by the commissioner to ensure that the security and confidentiality of the data is protected; and (iv) provided that disclosure is restricted to individuals within the local health department who are engaged in the research or education;

(i) [Eff. Aug. 27, 2013.] to a medical examiner or coroner who is an officer of or employed by a state or local government, pursuant to his or her official duties; and

(j) [Eff. Aug. 27, 2013.] to an individual for the purpose of providing such individual with his or her own controlled substance history or, in appropriate circumstances, in the case of a patient who lacks capacity to make health care decisions, a person who has legal authority to make such decisions for the patient and who would have legal access to the patient's health care records, if requested from the department pursuant to subdivision six of section thirty-three hundred forty-three-a of this article or from a treating practitioner pursuant to subparagraph (iv) of paragraph (a) of subdivision two of this section.

2. [Eff. until Aug. 27, 2013. See, also, subd. 2 below.] In the course of any proceeding where such information is disclosed, except when necessary to effectuate the rights of a party to the proceeding, the court or presiding officer shall take such action as is necessary to insure that such information, or record or report of such information is not made public.

2. [Eff. Aug. 27, 2013. See, also, subd. 2 above.] The prescription monitoring program registry may be accessed, under such terms and conditions as are established by the department for purposes of maintaining the security and confidentiality of the information contained in the registry, by:

(a) a practitioner, or a designee authorized by such practitioner pursuant to paragraph (b) of subdivision two of section thirty-three hundred forty-three-a of this article, for the purposes of: (i) informing the practitioner that a patient may be under treatment with a controlled substance by another practitioner; (ii) providing the practitioner with notifications of controlled substance activity as deemed relevant by the department, including but not limited to a notification made available on a monthly or other periodic basis through the registry of controlled substances activity pertaining to his or her patient; (iii) allowing the practitioner, through consultation of the prescription monitoring program registry, to review his or her patient's controlled substances history as required by section thirty-three hundred forty-three-a of this article; and (iv) providing

to his or her patient, or person authorized pursuant to paragraph (j) of subdivision one of this section, upon request, a copy of such patient's controlled substance history as is available to the practitioner through the prescription monitoring program registry; or

(b) a pharmacist, pharmacy intern or other designee authorized by the pharmacist pursuant to paragraph (b) of subdivision three of section thirty-three hundred forty-three-a of this article, for the purposes of: (i) consulting the prescription monitoring program registry to review the controlled substances history of an individual for whom one or more prescriptions for controlled substances is presented to the pharmacist, pursuant to section thirty-three hundred forty-three-a of this article; and (ii) receiving from the department such notifications of controlled substance activity as are made available by the department.

3. [Eff. Aug. 27, 2013.] Where it has reason to believe that a crime related to the diversion of controlled substances has been committed, the department may notify appropriate law enforcement agencies and provide relevant information about the suspected criminal activity, including controlled substances prescribed or dispensed, as reasonably appears to be necessary. The department shall keep a record of the information provided, including, but not limited to: the specific information provided and the agency to which such information was provided, including the name and title of the person to whom such information was provided and an attestation from such person that he or she has authority to receive such information.

4. [Eff. Aug. 27, 2013.] In the course of any proceeding where such information is disclosed, except when necessary to effectuate the rights of a party to the proceeding, the court or presiding officer shall take such action as is necessary to insure that such information, or record or report of such information is not made public.

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Oklahoma
63 § 2-309D (eff. Nov. 1, 2013)

Oklahoma Statutes Annotated (2013)
Title 63. Public Health and Safety
Chapter 2. Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act
Article III. Regulation of Manufacture, Distribution, Dispensing, Prescribing, Administering and Using for Scientific Purposes of Controlled Dangerous Substances
Anti-Drug Diversion Act

§ 2-309D. Central repository information--Confidentiality--Access-- Disclosure--Penalties--Liability

<Text of section effective November 1, 2013>

A. The information collected at the central repository pursuant to the Anti-Drug Diversion Act shall be confidential and shall not be open to the public. Access to the information shall be limited to:

1. Peace officers certified pursuant to Section 3311 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes who are employed as investigative agents of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control;

2. The United States Drug Enforcement Administration Diversion Group Supervisor;

3. The executive director or chief investigator, as designated by each board, of the following state boards:

a. Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners,

b. Board of Dentistry,

c. State Board of Pharmacy,

d. State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision,

e. State Board of Osteopathic Examiners,

f. State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners,

g. Oklahoma Health Care Authority,

h. Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and

i. State Board of Health;

provided, however, that the executive director or chief investigator of each of these boards shall be limited to access to information relevant to licensees of the employing board of such executive director or chief investigator;

4. A multicounty grand jury properly convened pursuant to the Multicounty Grand Jury Act; and

5. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the State Department of Health for statistical, research, substance abuse prevention or educational purposes provided that the consumer's confidentiality is not compromised.

B. This section shall not prevent access, at the discretion of the Director of the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control, to investigative information by peace officers and investigative agents of federal, state, county or municipal law enforcement agencies, district attorneys and the Attorney General in furtherance of criminal investigations or prosecutions within their respective jurisdictions, and to registrants in furtherance of efforts to guard against the diversion of controlled dangerous substances.

C. This section shall not prevent the disclosure, at the discretion of the Director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control, of statistical information gathered from the central repository to the general public which shall be limited to types and quantities of controlled substances dispensed and the county where dispensed.

D. Any unauthorized disclosure of any information collected at the central repository provided by the Anti-Drug Diversion Act shall be a misdemeanor. Violation of the provisions of this section shall be deemed willful neglect of duty and shall be grounds for removal from office.

E. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection B of this section, registrants shall have no requirement or obligation to access or check the information in the central repository prior to dispensing or administering medications or as part of their professional practices. Registrants shall not be liable to any person for any claim of damages as a result of accessing or failing to access the information in the central repository and no lawsuit may be predicated thereon. Nothing herein shall be construed to relieve a registrant from any duty to monitor and report the sales of certain products pursuant to subsection E of Section 2-309C of this title.

F. Information regarding nonfatal overdoses, other than statistical information as required by Section 2-106 of this title, shall be completely confidential. Access to this information shall be strictly limited to the Director of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control or designee, the Chief Medical Examiner, and the registrant that enters the information. Registrants shall not be liable to any person for a claim of damages for information reported pursuant to the provisions of Section 2-105 of this title.

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Utah
§ 58-37f-301

West's Utah Code Annotated (2013)
Title 58. Occupations and Professions
Chapter 37F. Controlled Substance Database Act
Part 3. Access

§ 58-37f-301. Access to database

(1) The division shall make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to:

(a) effectively enforce the limitations on access to the database as described in this part; and

(b) establish standards and procedures to ensure accurate identification of individuals requesting information or receiving information without request from the database.

(2) The division shall make information in the database and information obtained from other state or federal prescription monitoring programs by means of the database available only to the following individuals, in accordance with the requirements of this chapter and division rules:

(a) personnel of the division specifically assigned to conduct investigations related to controlled substance laws under the jurisdiction of the division;

(b) authorized division personnel engaged in analysis of controlled substance prescription information as a part of the assigned duties and responsibilities of their employment;

(c) in accordance with a written agreement entered into with the department, employees of the Department of Health:

(i) whom the director of the Department of Health assigns to conduct scientific studies regarding the use or abuse of controlled substances, if the identity of the individuals and pharmacies in the database are confidential and are not disclosed in any manner to any individual who is not directly involved in the scientific studies; or

(ii) when the information is requested by the Department of Health in relation to a person or provider whom the Department of Health suspects may be improperly obtaining or providing a controlled substance;

(d) in accordance with a written agreement entered into with the department, a designee of the director of the Department of Health, who is not an employee of the Department of

Health, whom the director of the Department of Health assigns to conduct scientific studies regarding the use or abuse of controlled substances pursuant to an application process established in rule by the Department of Health, if:

(i) the designee provides explicit information to the Department of Health regarding the purpose of the scientific studies;

(ii) the scientific studies to be conducted by the designee:

(A) fit within the responsibilities of the Department of Health for health and welfare;

(B) are reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board that is approved for human subject research by the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and

(C) are not conducted for profit or commercial gain; and

(D) are conducted in a research facility, as defined by division rule, that is associated with a university or college in the state accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities;

(iii) the designee protects the information as a business associate of the Department of Health; and

(iv) the identity of the prescribers, patients, and pharmacies in the database are de-identified, confidential, not disclosed in any manner to the designee or to any individual who is not directly involved in the scientific studies;

(e) a licensed practitioner having authority to prescribe controlled substances, to the extent the information:

(i)(A) relates specifically to a current or prospective patient of the practitioner; and

(B) is provided to or sought by the practitioner for the purpose of:

(I) prescribing or considering prescribing any controlled substance to the current or prospective patient;

(II) diagnosing the current or prospective patient;

(III) providing medical treatment or medical advice to the current or prospective patient; or

(IV) determining whether the current or prospective patient:

(Aa) is attempting to fraudulently obtain a controlled substance from the practitioner; or

(Bb) has fraudulently obtained, or attempted to fraudulently obtain, a controlled substance from the practitioner;

(ii)(A) relates specifically to a former patient of the practitioner; and

(B) is provided to or sought by the practitioner for the purpose of determining whether the former patient has fraudulently obtained, or has attempted to fraudulently obtain, a controlled substance from the practitioner;

(iii) relates specifically to an individual who has access to the practitioner's Drug Enforcement Administration identification number, and the practitioner suspects that the individual may have used the practitioner's Drug Enforcement Administration identification number to fraudulently acquire or prescribe a controlled substance;

(iv) relates to the practitioner's own prescribing practices, except when specifically prohibited by the division by administrative rule;

(v) relates to the use of the controlled substance database by an employee of the practitioner, described in Subsection (2)(f); or

(vi) relates to any use of the practitioner's Drug Enforcement Administration identification number to obtain, attempt to obtain, prescribe, or attempt to prescribe, a controlled substance;

(f) in accordance with Subsection (3)(a), an employee of a practitioner described in Subsection (2)(e), for a purpose described in Subsection (2)(e)(i) or (ii), if:

(i) the employee is designated by the practitioner as an individual authorized to access the information on behalf of the practitioner;

(ii) the practitioner provides written notice to the division of the identity of the employee; and

(iii) the division:

(A) grants the employee access to the database; and

(B) provides the employee with a password that is unique to that employee to access the database in order to permit the division to comply with the requirements of Subsection 58-37f-203(3)(b) with respect to the employee;

(g) an employee of the same business that employs a licensed practitioner under Subsection (2)(e) if:

(i) the employee is designated by the practitioner as an individual authorized to access the information on behalf of the practitioner;

(ii) the practitioner and the employing business provide written notice to the division of the identity of the designated employee; and

(iii) the division:

(A) grants the employee access to the database; and

(B) provides the employee with a password that is unique to that employee to access the database in order to permit the division to comply with the requirements of Subsection 58-37f-203(3)(b) with respect to the employee;

(h) a licensed pharmacist having authority to dispense a controlled substance to the extent the information is provided or sought for the purpose of:

(i) dispensing or considering dispensing any controlled substance; or

(ii) determining whether a person:

(A) is attempting to fraudulently obtain a controlled substance from the pharmacist; or

(B) has fraudulently obtained, or attempted to fraudulently obtain, a controlled substance from the pharmacist;

(i) federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities, and state and local prosecutors, engaged as a specified duty of their employment in enforcing laws:

(i) regulating controlled substances;

(ii) investigating insurance fraud, Medicaid fraud, or Medicare fraud; or

(iii) providing information about a criminal defendant to defense counsel, upon request during the discovery process, for the purpose of establishing a defense in a criminal case;

(j) employees of the Office of Internal Audit and Program Integrity within the Department of Health who are engaged in their specified duty of ensuring Medicaid program integrity under Section 26-18-2.3;

(k) a mental health therapist, if:

(i) the information relates to a patient who is:

(A) enrolled in a licensed substance abuse treatment program; and

(B) receiving treatment from, or under the direction of, the mental health therapist as part of the patient's participation in the licensed substance abuse treatment program described in Subsection (2)(k)(i)(A);

(ii) the information is sought for the purpose of determining whether the patient is using a controlled substance while the patient is enrolled in the licensed substance abuse treatment program described in Subsection (2)(k)(i)(A); and

(iii) the licensed substance abuse treatment program described in Subsection (2)(k)(i)(A) is associated with a practitioner who:

(A) is a physician, a physician assistant, an advance practice registered nurse, or a pharmacist; and

(B) is available to consult with the mental health therapist regarding the information obtained by the mental health therapist, under this Subsection (2)(k), from the database;

(l) an individual who is the recipient of a controlled substance prescription entered into the database, upon providing evidence satisfactory to the division that the individual requesting the information is in fact the individual about whom the data entry was made;

(m) the inspector general, or a designee of the inspector general, of the Office of Inspector General of Medicaid Services, for the purpose of fulfilling the duties described in Title 63A, Chapter 13, Part 2, Office and Powers; and

(n) the following licensed physicians for the purpose of reviewing and offering an opinion on an individual's request for workers' compensation benefits under Title 34A, Chapter 2, Workers' Compensation Act, or Title 34A, Chapter 3, Utah Occupational Disease Act:

(i) a member of the medical panel described in Section 34A-2-601; or

(ii) a physician offering a second opinion regarding treatment.

(3)(a) A practitioner described in Subsection (2)(e) may designate up to three employees to access information from the database under Subsection (2)(f), (2)(g), or (4)(c).

(b) The division shall make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to:

(i) establish background check procedures to determine whether an employee designated under Subsection (2)(f), (2)(g), or (4)(c) should be granted access to the database; and

(ii) establish the information to be provided by an emergency room employee under Subsection (4).

(c) The division shall grant an employee designated under Subsection (2)(f), (2)(g), or (4)(c) access to the database, unless the division determines, based on a background check, that the employee poses a security risk to the information contained in the database.

(4)(a) An individual who is employed in the emergency room of a hospital may exercise access to the database under this Subsection (4) on behalf of a licensed practitioner if the individual is designated under Subsection (4)(c) and the licensed practitioner:

(i) is employed in the emergency room;

(ii) is treating an emergency room patient for an emergency medical condition; and

(iii) requests that an individual employed in the emergency room and designated under Subsection (4)(c) obtain information regarding the patient from the database as needed in the course of treatment.

(b) The emergency room employee obtaining information from the database shall, when gaining access to the database, provide to the database the name and any additional identifiers regarding the requesting practitioner as required by division administrative rule established under Subsection (3)(b).

(c) An individual employed in the emergency room under this Subsection (4) may obtain information from the database as provided in Subsection (4)(a) if:

(i) the employee is designated by the practitioner as an individual authorized to access the information on behalf of the practitioner;

(ii) the practitioner and the hospital operating the emergency room provide written notice to the division of the identity of the designated employee; and

(iii) the division:

(A) grants the employee access to the database; and

(B) provides the employee with a password that is unique to that employee to access the database in order to permit the division to comply with the requirements of Subsection 58-37f-203(3)(b) with respect to the employee.

(d) The division may impose a fee, in accordance with Section 63J-1-504, on a practitioner who designates an employee under Subsection (2)(f), (2)(g), or (4)(c) to pay for the costs incurred by the division to conduct the background check and make the determination described in Subsection (3)(b).

(5)(a) An individual who is granted access to the database based on the fact that the individual is a licensed practitioner or a mental health therapist shall be denied access to the database when the individual is no longer licensed.

(b) An individual who is granted access to the database based on the fact that the individual is a designated employee of a licensed practitioner shall be denied access to the database when the practitioner is no longer licensed.

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Vermont
18 § 4284

West's Vermont Statutes Annotated (2013)
Title Eighteen. Health
Part 5. Foods and Drugs
Chapter 84A. Vermont Prescription Monitoring System

§ 4284. Protection and disclosure of information

(a) The data collected pursuant to this chapter and all related information and records shall be confidential, except as provided in this chapter, and shall not be subject to the Public Records Act. The Department shall maintain procedures to protect patient privacy, ensure the confidentiality of patient information collected, recorded, transmitted, and maintained, and ensure that information is not disclosed to any person except as provided in this section.

(b)(1) The Department shall provide only the following persons with access to query the VPMS:

(A) A health care provider, dispenser, or delegate who is registered with the VPMS and certifies that the requested information is for the purpose of providing medical or pharmaceutical treatment to a bona fide current patient.

(B) Personnel or contractors, as necessary for establishing and maintaining the VPMS.

(C) The Medical Director of the Department of Vermont Health Access, for the purposes of Medicaid quality assurance, utilization, and federal monitoring requirements with respect to Medicaid recipients for whom a Medicaid claim for a Schedule II, III, or IV controlled substance has been submitted.

(D) A medical examiner or delegate from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, for the purpose of conducting an investigation or inquiry into the cause, manner, and circumstances of an individual's death.

(E) A health care provider or medical examiner licensed to practice in another state, to the extent necessary to provide appropriate medical care to a Vermont resident or to investigate the death of a Vermont resident.

(2) The Department shall provide reports of data available to the Department through the VPMS only to the following persons:

(A) A patient or that person's health care provider, or both, when VPMS reveals that a patient may be receiving more than a therapeutic amount of one or more regulated substances.

(B) A designated representative of a board responsible for the licensure, regulation, or discipline of health care providers or dispensers pursuant to a bona fide specific investigation.

(C) A patient for whom a prescription is written, insofar as the information relates to that patient.

(D) The relevant occupational licensing or certification authority if the Commissioner reasonably suspects fraudulent or illegal activity by a health care provider. The licensing or certification authority may report the data that are the evidence for the suspected fraudulent or illegal activity to a drug diversion investigator.

(E)(i) The Commissioner of Public Safety, personally, or the Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety, personally, if the Commissioner of Health, personally, or a Deputy Commissioner of Health, personally, makes the disclosure and has consulted with at least one of the patient's health care providers, when the disclosure is necessary to avert a serious and imminent threat to a person or the public.

(ii) The Commissioner of Public Safety, personally, or the Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety, personally, when he or she requests data from the Commissioner of Health, and the Commissioner of Health believes, after consultation with at least one of the patient's health care providers, that disclosure is necessary to avert a serious and imminent threat to a person or the public.

(iii) The Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety may disclose such data received pursuant to this subdivision (E) as is necessary, in his or her discretion, to avert the serious and imminent threat.

<Text of subsection (F) effective October 1, 2013>

(F) A prescription monitoring system or similar entity in another state pursuant to a reciprocal agreement to share prescription monitoring information with the Vermont Department of Health as descried in section 4288 of this title.

(c) A person who receives data or a report from VPMS or from the Department shall not share that data or report with any other person or entity not eligible to receive that data pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, except as necessary and consistent with the purpose of the disclosure and in the normal course of business. Nothing shall restrict the right of a patient to share his or her own data.

(d) The Commissioner shall offer health care providers and dispensers training in the proper use of information they may receive from VPMS. Training may be provided in collaboration with professional associations representing health care providers and dispensers.

(e) A drug diversion investigator who may receive information pursuant to this section shall not have access to VPMS except for information provided to the officer by the licensing or certification authority.

(f) The Department is authorized to use information from VPMS for research, trend analysis, and other public health promotion purposes provided that data are aggregated or otherwise de-identified. The Department shall post the results of trend analyses on its website for use by health care providers, dispensers, and the general public. When appropriate, the Department shall send alerts relating to identified trends to health care providers and dispensers by electronic mail.

(g) Following consultation with the Unified Pain Management System Advisory Council and an opportunity for input from stakeholders, the Department shall develop a policy that will enable it to use information from VPMS to determine if individual prescribers and dispensers are using VPMS appropriately.

(h) Following consultation with the Unified Pain Management System Advisory Council and an opportunity for input from stakeholders, the Department shall develop a policy that will enable it to evaluate the prescription of regulated drugs by prescribers.

(i) Knowing disclosure of transmitted data to a person not authorized by subsection (b) of this section, or obtaining information under this section not relating to a bona fide specific investigation, shall be punishable by imprisonment for not more than one year or a fine of not more than $1,000.00, or both, in addition to any penalties under federal law.

(j) All information and correspondence relating to the disclosure of information by the Commissioner to a patient's health care provider pursuant to subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section shall be confidential and privileged, exempt from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act, immune from subpoena or other disclosure, and not subject to discovery or introduction into evidence.

(k) Each request for disclosure of data pursuant to subdivision (b)(2)(B) of this section shall document a bona fide specific investigation and shall specify the case number of the investigation.

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