

Welcome to the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL) Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Update. Through this update, we hope to relay states' efforts regarding PMPs and related legislative, regulatory, and program updates. As part of our work with states to address alcohol and other drug issues through laws, policies, and programs, NAMSDL assists states with efforts to address the diversion of, abuse of, misuse of, and addiction to prescription drugs. We hope you find this update useful and we welcome your feedback, suggestions, and ideas.

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1. FY2007 Grant Awards for the Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Grant Program

The Bureau of Justice Assistance has now announced all of the HRPDMP grant awards for FY2007. Eighteen states received awards, including three for planning grants and 15 for enhancement grants. Please see the attached document for more detail about those states receiving FY2007 grants

2. National Surveys Show Increase in Nonmedical Use of Prescription Drugs

Visits to Emergency Rooms for Nonmedical Use of Prescriptions and OTC Drugs on the Rise

Visits to emergency rooms arising from nonmedical use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs rose 21% between 2004 & 2005, according to the latest estimates from the *Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2005: National Estimates of Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits*. Visits related to illicit drug use or alcohol were unchanged for the same time period.

For more detail, please go to <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/0703135521.aspx>

National Household Survey Reports Increase in Use of Prescription Drugs Among Young Adults

According to the 2006 National Household Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), nonmedical use of prescription drugs among young adults increased from 5.4% to 6% in 2006, due largely to an increase in the nonmedical use of pain relievers.

For more detail, please go to <http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/0709043102.aspx>

3. American University Available to Assist States With PMPs

Just a reminder that American University is available to help arrange on-site visits to operational PMPs and assist with regional training opportunities. For a more comprehensive description of the types of assistance American University can provide, please see the attached document.

4. Review of Model Interstate Sharing Agreement to Keep Pace with Technology

IJIS and numerous hard-working PMP officials are making great strides in technological advances to facilitate the interstate exchange of PMP data. To ensure that the Model Interstate Sharing Agreement keeps pace with those advances, NAMSDL will be working with an IJIS PMP Subcommittee, headed by Jim Giglio of New York, to determine how the technological advances will impact the legal privacy requirements within the Agreement. NAMSDL will keep you posted on changes to the Agreement and will distribute the amended document in a future Update.

5. Congressional Update

The House passed their version of the Commerce-Justice-Science FY08 appropriations bill on July 26 by a roll call vote of 281-142. The House bill (HR 3093) contains \$7.5 million for the Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring program, while the program is slated to receive \$5 million in the Senate bill (S 1745). The Senate Appropriations committee passed the bill on June 28 but the bill has not been considered yet on the floor. With the fiscal year set to expire on September 30, it is uncertain if the bill will be considered individually or if it will be wrapped up into a larger omnibus bill.

Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-KY) offered an amendment to fund the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act at \$10 million during the House debate on the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education appropriations bill (HR 3043). During his remarks on the amendment, Whitfield noted that the NASPER program was authorized by the Congress and that he was not asking for Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring program to be de-funded. Whitfield withdrew the amendment after an objection was raised by members of the House Appropriations Committee that funding NASPER would be duplicative.

The Senate Judiciary Committee is expected to mark up the Online Pharmacy Consumer Act of 2007 (S. 980) on September 27. The legislation is sponsored by Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Jeff Sessions (R-AL). The legislation would require online pharmacies to disclose certain information on their homepage, be licensed in each state they operate and would define what constitutes a valid prescription and patient-prescriber relationship. Currently, there is no House companion bill

6. In the News

This section includes summaries and links to recent news items about PMPs, prescription drug diversion, and related issues.

New state law targets prescription abuse

Tucson Citizen, July 6, 2007

<http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/altss/printstory/local/56739>

Gov. Janet Napolitano is touting a measure to fight prescription drug abuse by making it harder for patients to go to multiple doctors for the same medication. Napolitano signed the measure into law this week. House Bill 2136 will create a controlled substances monitoring program, which will consist of a secure electronic database that gathers information from pharmacies. That will show if people are seeing more than one doctor for multiple prescriptions of the same drug.

Experts: Pills becoming the new marijuana on campus

CNN.com, July 6, 2007

http://www.cnn.com/2007/HEALTH/07/05/drug.use/index.html?eref=rss_topstories

The prescription drugs allegedly found in Al Gore III's possession this week are favorites among young people, according to drug abuse experts, who say prescription drugs may soon overtake street drugs in popularity.

"I wouldn't be surprised if right now at this point in time, there are more kids abusing prescription drugs than abusing marijuana," said Joseph A. Califano Jr., chairman and president of CASA, the National Center on Alcohol and Substance Abuse at Columbia University.

Ad Spotlights Teen Abuse of Medicinal Drugs

FDA.gov, July 21, 2007

<http://www.fda.gov/consumer/updates/antidrug071807.html>

How hard is it for your teen to get high on prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs? It's easier than you may think. The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reports that more than half of teens who abuse prescription pain relievers say they get them for free, from the homes of family or friends. Many times, teens simply take the drugs without asking.

Database touted to track prescriptions, flag addictions

Great Falls Tribune, July 22, 2007

www.greatfallstribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070722/NEWS01/707220315

As pharmacies in surrounding states use online databases to outwit prescription pill abusers, Montana is becoming a draw for addicts seeking hydrocodone, oxycodone and other addictive painkillers, say officials with the Montana Board of Crime Control.

Thirty-two states nationwide, including Idaho and Wyoming, have electronic databases that allow pharmacies to share information on prescriptions of psychotropic drugs, opiate painkillers and other addictive medications. Montana's other neighbor, North Dakota, recently received a federal grant to plan and implement a monitoring system.

New York Saves \$60 Million with New Prescription Program

Associated Content, August 1, 2007

www.associatedcontent.com/article/333437/new_york_saves_60_million_with_new.html

According to a [New York State Department of Health press release](#), a new law that requires medical professionals, namely doctors, to use an official state prescription form for all patients' written prescriptions have saved the state \$60 million in medical fraud within the first six months of the law being instated.

Governor Kaine Announces \$400,000 Federal Grant For 24/7 Access To Prescription Drug Database

Office of Governor Tim Kaine, August 7, 2007

www.governor.virginia.gov/MediaRelations/NewsReleases/viewRelease.cfm?id=476

RICHMOND – Governor Timothy M. Kaine today announced a \$400,000 federal grant award that will allow Virginia to expand its efforts to help health care professionals monitor a patient's prescription drug use. "This federal grant will enhance our efforts to identify and prevent illegal use of prescription drugs," Governor Kaine said. "The Prescription Monitoring Program has been a valuable tool, and this expansion will improve its efficacy."

Deceiving doctors for drugs now is a felony

Tennessean, August 11, 2007

<http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070806/NEWS07/708060352>

Toothaches, back pain, migraine headaches. Dr. Corey Slovis has seen people fake all kinds of illnesses to try to get narcotics from the emergency room. To convince doctors of kidney stone attacks, he said, some people have gone so far as to prick their finger to bloody their urine sample.

New database spots prescription drug abusers

Denver Post, September 17, 2007

http://www.denverpost.com/ci_6913581

Colorado physicians have a new tool to stop prescription drug abusers who may be "doctor shopping" in order to obtain their fix. A computerized database called the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program will allow physicians to look up drugs their patients have been prescribed to see if they have visited different doctors to obtain a surplus of painkillers. Pharmacists have begun uploading information into the database, but it won't be accessible until December or January, when six months of data is compiled, said Wendy Anderson, program director for the state Board of Pharmacy.

DEA audits state's Indian clinics

Great Falls Tribune, September 14, 2007

www.greatfallstribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070914/NEWS01/709140316/1002

Federal drug agents are inspecting health clinics on Montana's Indian reservations in response to what tribal officials say is a rampant problem with prescription drug abuse.

Investigators with the Drug Enforcement Agency are counting prescription pain pills, conducting interviews and reviewing records at Indian Health Service clinics throughout the state, agency officials said.

County Doctors utilize computer system to hinder growing prescription abuse

Provo Daily Herald, September 17, 2007

<http://www.harktheherald.com/content/view/237715/>

Prescription drug addicts looking for their next fix have a number of options when they're trying to illicitly obtain pills like OxyContin and Lortab. But some Utah County doctors are using a system that takes away one of their best tricks. A number of doctors in Utah have tossed their old-fashioned prescription pads aside in favor of a computerized system. Written prescriptions, often filled with doctors' notoriously illegible handwriting, can be altered to change patient names, drugs or dosages. But printouts from the computerized system are nearly impossible to forge.