PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM STATE PROFILES – NORTH CAROLINA

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NORTH CAROLINA

http://www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas/controlledsubstance/
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- Status of Program – operational
- Housing Entity – Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services
- Advisory Commission – yes
- Funding – controlled substance registration fees and grants
- Drugs Monitored – Schedules II – V
- Who's Required to Report Dispensing Information – all dispensers, which means all persons who deliver Schedule II – V controlled substances to an ultimate user
- Exemptions from Reporting – licensed hospital or long-term care pharmacy for inpatient use; wholesale distributor; veterinarian
- Nonresident Pharmacies Required to Report – yes
- Veterinarians Required to Report – no
- Data Collection Interval – 3 days
- Notice to Consumers – no
- Interstate Sharing – with other PMPs
- Persons Authorized to Receive Information – county medical examiner; law enforcement and judicial/prosecutorial officials; licensing/regulatory boards; Division of Medical Assistance; patient; prescribers; dispensers
- Delegates Allowed – yes
- De-identified Data Provided – yes
- Unsolicited Reports – to law enforcement and licensing entities
- Training Required – no
- Mandatory Enrollment – no
- Mandatory Access – yes; the medical director of an opioid treatment program must use the PMP upon admission of a new patient and at least annually thereafter

West's North Carolina General Statutes Annotated (2014)
Chapter 90. Medicine and Allied Occupations
Article 5E. North Carolina Controlled Substances Reporting System Act

§ 90-113.73. Requirements for controlled substances reporting system

(a) The Department shall establish and maintain a reporting system of prescriptions for all Schedule II through V controlled substances. Each dispenser shall submit the information in accordance with transmission methods and frequency established by rule by the Commission. The Department may issue a waiver to a dispenser who is unable to submit prescription information by electronic means. The waiver may permit the dispenser to submit prescription information by paper form or other means, provided all information required of electronically submitted data is submitted. The dispenser shall report the information required under this section no later than the close of business three business days after the day when the prescription was delivered, beginning the next day after the delivery date; however, dispensers are encouraged to report the information no later than 24 hours after the prescription was delivered. The information shall be submitted in a format as determined annually by the Department based on the format used in the majority of the states operating a controlled substances reporting system.

(b) The Commission shall adopt rules requiring dispensers to report the following information. The Commission may modify these requirements as necessary to carry out the purposes of this Article. The dispenser shall report:

(1) The dispenser's DEA number.

(2) The name of the patient for whom the controlled substance is being dispensed, and the patient's:

a. Full address, including city, state, and zip code,

b. Telephone number, and

c. Date of birth.

(3) The date the prescription was written.

(4) The date the prescription was filled.

(5) The prescription number.

(6) Whether the prescription is new or a refill.

(7) Metric quantity of the dispensed drug.

(8) Estimated days of supply of dispensed drug, if provided to the dispenser.

(9) National Drug Code of dispensed drug.

(10) Prescriber's DEA number.

(11) Method of payment for the prescription.

(c) A dispenser shall not be required to report instances in which a controlled substance is provided directly to the ultimate user and the quantity provided does not exceed a 48-hour supply.

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§ 90-113.74. Confidentiality

(a) Prescription information submitted to the Department is privileged and confidential, is not a public record pursuant to G.S. 132-1, is not subject to subpoena or discovery or any other use in civil proceedings, and except as otherwise provided below may only be used for investigative or evidentiary purposes related to violations of State or federal law and regulatory activities. Except as otherwise provided by this section, prescription information shall not be disclosed or disseminated to any person or entity by any person or entity authorized to review prescription information.

(b) The Department may use prescription information data in the controlled substances reporting system only for purposes of implementing this Article in accordance with its provisions.

(b1) The Department may review the prescription information data in the controlled substances reporting system and upon review may:

(1) Notify practitioners that a patient may have obtained prescriptions for controlled substances in a manner that may represent abuse, diversion of controlled substances, or an increased risk of harm to the patient.

(2) Report information regarding the prescribing practices of a practitioner to the agency responsible for licensing, registering, or certifying the practitioner pursuant to rules adopted by the agency as set forth below in subsection (b2) of this section.

(b2) In order to receive a report pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b1) of this section, an agency responsible for licensing, registering, or certifying a practitioner with prescriptive or dispensing authority shall adopt rules setting the criteria by which the Department may report the information to the agency. The criteria for reporting established by rule shall not establish the standard of care for prescribing or dispensing, and it shall not be a basis for disciplinary action by an agency that the Department reported a practitioner to an agency based on the criteria.

(c) The Department shall release data in the controlled substances reporting system to the following persons only:

(1) Persons authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances for the purpose of providing medical or pharmaceutical care for their patients. A person authorized to receive data pursuant to this paragraph may delegate the authority to receive the data to other persons working under his or her direction and supervision, provided the Department approves the delegation.

(2) An individual who requests the individual's own controlled substances reporting system information.

(3) Special agents of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation who are assigned to the Diversion & Environmental Crimes Unit and whose primary duties involve the investigation of diversion and illegal use of prescription medication. SBI agents assigned to the Diversion & Environmental Crimes Unit may then provide this information to other SBI agents who are engaged in a bona fide specific investigation related to enforcement of laws governing licit drugs. The SBI shall notify the Office of the Attorney General of North Carolina of each request for inspection of records maintained by the Department.

(4) Primary monitoring authorities for other states pursuant to a specific ongoing investigation involving a designated person, if information concerns the dispensing of a Schedule II through V controlled substance to an ultimate user who resides in the other state or the dispensing of a Schedule II through V controlled substance prescribed by a licensed health care practitioner whose principal place of business is located in the other state.

(5) To a sheriff or designated deputy sheriff or a police chief or a designated police investigator who is assigned to investigate the diversion and illegal use of prescription medication or pharmaceutical products identified in Article 5 of this Chapter of the General Statutes as Schedule II through V controlled substances and who is engaged in a bona fide specific investigation related to the enforcement of laws governing licit drugs pursuant to a lawful court order specifically issued for that purpose.

(6) The Division of Medical Assistance for purposes of administering the State Medical Assistance Plan.

(7) Licensing boards with jurisdiction over health care disciplines pursuant to an ongoing investigation by the licensing board of a specific individual licensed by the board.

(8) Any county medical examiner appointed by the Chief Medical Examiner pursuant to G.S. 130A-382 and the Chief Medical Examiner, for the purpose of investigating the death of an individual.

(d) The Department may provide data to public or private entities for statistical, research, or educational purposes only after removing information that could be used to identify individual patients who received prescription medications from dispensers.

(e) In the event that the Department finds patterns of prescribing medications that are unusual, the Department shall inform the Attorney General's Office of its findings. The Office of the Attorney General shall review the Department's findings to determine if the findings should be reported to the SBI and the appropriate sheriff for investigation of possible violations of State or federal law relating to controlled substances.

(f) The Department shall purge from the controlled substances reporting system database all information more than six years old.

(g) Nothing in this Article shall prohibit a person authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes from disclosing or disseminating data regarding a particular patient obtained under subsection (c) of this section to another person (i) authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes and (ii) authorized to receive the same data from the Department under subsection (c) of this section.

(h) Nothing in this Article shall prevent persons licensed or approved to practice medicine or perform medical acts, tasks, and functions pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes from retaining data received pursuant to subsection (c) of this section in a patient's confidential health care record.

North Carolina Administrative Code (2014)
Title 10A. Department of Health and Human Services
Chapter 26. Mental Health: General
Subchapter 26E. Manufacturers: Distributors: Dispensers and Researchers of Controlled Substances
Section .0600. Controlled Substances Reporting System

.0603 REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSMISSION OF DATA

(a) Each dispenser shall transmit to the Department the data as set forth in G.S. 90-113.73. The data shall be transmitted in the ASAP Telecommunication Format for Controlled Substances, published by the American Society for Automation in Pharmacy that is in use in the majority of states operating a controlled substance reporting system.

(b) The dispenser shall transmit the data electronically unless the Department approves a request for submission on paper as set forth in Paragraphs (e) and (f) of this Rule.

(c) The dispenser's electronic transfer data equipment including hardware, software and internet connections shall be in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act as set forth in 45 CFR, Part 164.

(d) Each electronic transmission shall meet data protection requirements as follows:

(1) Data shall be at least 128B encryption in transmission and at rest; or

(2) Data shall be transmitted via secure file transfer protocol. Once received, data at rest shall be encrypted.

(e) The data may be submitted on paper if the dispenser submits a written request to the Department and receives prior approval.

(f) The Department shall consider the following in granting approval of the request:

(1) The dispenser does not have a computerized record keeping system; or

(2) The dispenser is unable to conform to the submission format required by the database administrator without incurring expenses over three thousand dollars ($3,000).

(g) The dispenser shall report the data pursuant to the requirements of G.S. 90-113.73(a).

North Carolina Administrative Code (2014)
Title 21. Occupational Licensing Boards
Chapter 46. Board of Pharmacy
Section.3500. Controlled Substances Reporting System

.3501 REPORTS FROM THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES REPORTING SYSTEM

The Department of Health and Human Services may submit a report to the Board of Pharmacy if it receives information that the Department of Health and Human Services believes provides a basis to investigate whether a pharmacy, pharmacist or technician has dispensed prescriptions for controlled substances in a manner that may violate laws governing the dispensing of controlled substances or the practice of pharmacy.