STATES THAT PROVIDE PMP DATABASE INFORMATION TO COUNTY CORONERS AND/OR MEDICAL EXAMINERS

This project was supported by Cooperative Agreement No. 2012-DC-BX-K002 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Community Capacity Development Office, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Headquarters Office: THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR MODEL STATE DRUG LAWS. 215 Lincoln Ave. Suite 201, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

Arkansas

West's Arkansas Code Annotated (2012)
Title 20. Public Health and Welfare
Subtitle 2. Health and Safety
Chapter 7. State Board of Health--Department of Health
Subchapter 6. Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Act

§ 20-7-607. Providing prescription monitoring information

(a)(1) The Department of Health may review the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program information, including without limitation a review to identify information that appears to indicate whether a person may be obtaining prescriptions in a manner that may represent misuse or abuse of controlled substances.

(2) If information of misuse or abuse is identified, the department shall notify the practitioners and dispensers who prescribed or dispensed the prescriptions.

(b) The department shall provide information in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program upon request and at no cost only to the following persons:

(1) A person authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances for the purpose of providing medical or pharmaceutical care for his or her patients or for reviewing information regarding prescriptions that are recorded as having been issued or dispensed by the requester;

(2) A patient who requests his or her own prescription monitoring information;

(3) A parent or legal guardian of a minor child who requests the minor child's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program information;

(4)(A) A designated representative of a professional licensing board of the professions of the healing arts representing health care disciplines whose licensees are prescribers pursuant to an investigation of a specific individual, entity, or business licensed or permitted by that board.

(B) Except as permitted by subsection (a)(2) of this section, the department shall provide information under subsection (b)(4)(A) of this section only if the requesting board states in writing that the information is necessary for an investigation;

(5) The State Medical Examiner as authorized by law to investigate causes of deaths for cases under investigation pursuant to his or her official duties and responsibilities;

(6) Local, state, and federal law enforcement or prosecutorial officials engaged in the administration, investigation, or enforcement of the laws governing controlled substances

required to be submitted under this subchapter pursuant to the agency's official duties and responsibilities; and

(7) Personnel of the department for purposes of administration and enforcement of this subchapter.

(c) Information collected under this subchapter shall be maintained for three (3) years.

(d) The department may provide information to public or private entities for statistical, research, or educational purposes after encrypting or removing the patient's name, street name and number, patient identification number, month and day of birth, and prescriber information that could be used to identify individual patients or persons who received prescriptions from dispensers, or both.

Maine

Maine Revised Statutes Annotated (2012)
Title 22. Health and Welfare
Subtitle 4. Human Services
Part 3. Drug Abuse
Chapter 1603. Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring

§ 7250. Access to prescription monitoring information and confidentiality

1. Confidentiality. Except as provided in this section, prescription monitoring information submitted to the department is confidential and is not a public record as defined in Title 1, section 402, subsection 3.

2. Review of information. If the prescription monitoring information surpasses thresholds as established by the department, the department shall notify the prescriber, the dispenser and, if the department determines it to be necessary, the professional licensing entity and provide all relevant prescription monitoring information to those persons and entities through an established letter of notification.

3. Permissible disclosure of information. The department may provide prescription monitoring information for public research, policy or education purposes as long as all information reasonably likely to reveal the patient or other person who is the subject of the information has been removed.

4. Access to information. The following persons may access prescription monitoring information:

A. A prescriber, insofar as the information relates to a patient under the prescriber's care;

B. A dispenser, insofar as the information relates to a customer of the dispenser seeking to have a prescription filled;

C. The executive director, or a board investigator as designated by each board, of the state boards of licensure of podiatric medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, medicine, osteopathy, veterinary medicine, nursing or other boards representing health care disciplines whose licensees are prescribers, as required for an investigation, with reasonable cause;

D. A patient to whom a prescription is written, insofar as the information relates to that patient;

E. Department personnel or personnel of any vendor or contractor, as necessary for establishing and maintaining the program's electronic system;

F. The Office of Chief Medical Examiner for the purpose of conducting an investigation or inquiry into the cause, manner and circumstances of death in a medical examiner case as described in section 3025. Prescription monitoring information in the possession or under the control of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner is confidential and, notwithstanding section 3022, may not be disseminated. Information that is not prescription monitoring information and is separately acquired following access to prescription monitoring information pursuant to this paragraph remains subject to protection or dissemination in accordance with section 3022;

<Text of subsec. 4, par. G as amended by Laws 2011, c. 657, § O-3.>

G. The office that administers the MaineCare program pursuant to chapter 855 for the purposes of managing the care of its members, monitoring the purchase of controlled substances by its members , avoiding duplicate dispensing of controlled substances and providing treatment pattern data under subsection 6; and

<Text of subsec. 4, par. G as amended by Laws 2011, c. 657, § AA-69.>

G. The office that administers the MaineCare program pursuant to chapter 855 for the purposes of managing the care of its members, monitoring the purchase of controlled substances by its members and avoiding duplicate dispensing of controlled substances; and

H. Another state pursuant to subsection 4-A.

4-A. Information sharing with other states. The department may provide prescription monitoring information to and receive prescription monitoring information from another state that has prescription monitoring information provisions consistent with this chapter and has entered into a prescription monitoring information sharing agreement with the department. The department may enter into a prescription monitoring information sharing agreement with another state to establish the terms and conditions of prescription monitoring information sharing and interoperability of information systems and to carry out the purposes of this subsection. For purposes of this subsection, "another state" means any state other than Maine and any territory or possession of the United States, but does not include a foreign country.

5. Purge of information. The department shall purge from the program all information that is more than 6 years old.

6. Treatment pattern data. The department may provide to a prescriber who treats a member under the MaineCare program prescription monitoring information on the prescriber and other prescribers that is de-identified as to prescriber and patient and that indicates treatment patterns in comparison among peers. If the department has shared with a prescriber treatment pattern data under this subsection, the department shall allow the prescriber time to align the prescriber's prescribing patterns with the patterns of the peers of the prescriber. The department may take

appropriate actions with regard to a prescriber who is unable to achieve treatment pattern alignment as provided in this subsection.

Code of Maine Rules (2012)
14. Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services
118. Office of Substance Abuse
Chapter 11. Rules Governing The Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program

Sec. 7. Access to Prescription Monitoring Information

1. By patients

A. A patient, or a patients' authorized representative, may obtain a report listing all prescription monitoring information that pertains to the patient.

B. A patient or a patient's authorized representative seeking access to prescription monitoring information described above must submit a written request for information in person at the office of the Monitor, or at any other place specified by the Monitor or the Office. The written request shall be in a format established by the Office or the Monitor and shall contain at least, but not limited to, the following elements:

1) the patient's name and the full name of the patient's authorized representative, if applicable;

2) the patient's date of birth;

3) the patient's address, and the complete physical address of the patient's authorized representative, if applicable;

4) the patient's telephone number, if any, and the telephone number of the authorized representative, if applicable; and

5) the time period for which information is being requested.

C. The patient or the patient's authorized representative must produce valid photographic identification prior to obtaining access to the information described above. The patient or the patient's authorized representative must allow photocopying of the identification.

D. Prior to obtaining access to the information described above, authorized representatives must produce either an official attested copy of the judicial order granting them authority to gain access to the health care records of the patient; or in the case of parents of a minor child, a certified copy of the Birth Certificate of the minor child or other official documents establishing legal guardianship; or in the case of persons holding power of attorney, the original document

establishing the power of attorney. The patient's authorized representative must allow photocopying of the documents described above. The Office or the Monitor may verify the patient authorization by any reasonable means prior to providing the information to the authorized representative.

2. By dispensers

A. A dispenser, or a licensed pharmacy technician authorized by a supervising pharmacist, may obtain any prescription monitoring information insofar as the information relates to a customer of the dispenser seeking to have a prescription filled. The information shall be provided in a format established by the Office, which may include, but is not limited to, delivery by electronic means, facsimile transmission, or telephonic communication.

B. A dispenser who seeks access to the information described above must register as a data requester in a manner specified by the Monitor or the Office. The Office or Monitor shall issue credentials to authorized dispensers. Dispensers may use these credentials to access the online database and submit requests. If the credentials issued by the Office are lost, missing, or the security of the credentials is compromised, the dispenser shall cause the Office or Monitor to be notified by telephone and in writing as soon as reasonably possible. Information regarding more than one customer may be submitted in a single request. Requests shall be in a format established by the Office or the Monitor and shall contain at least, but not limited to, the following elements for each customer:

1) The name and date of birth of the customer; and

2) The time period for which information is being requested.

C. The Office or the Monitor shall take reasonable steps to verify each registration, such as, but not limited to, making a telephone call to the dispenser or to an agent of the dispenser at a telephone number known to belong to the dispenser's place of business.

3. By prescribers

A. A prescriber, or any staff member duly authorized by a prescriber and the Office, may obtain any prescription monitoring information insofar as the information relates to a patient under the prescriber's care. The information shall be provided in a format established by the Office, which may include, but is not limited to delivery by electronic means, facsimile transmission, or telephonic communication.

B. A prescriber, or any staff member duly authorized by a prescriber and the Office, who seeks access to the information described above must register as a data requester in a manner specified by the Monitor or the Office. The Office or Monitor shall issue credentials to authorized prescribers or their designees. Data requesters may use these credentials to access the online

database and submit requests. If the credentials issued by the Office are lost, missing, or the security of the credentials is compromised, the data requester shall cause the Office or Monitor to be notified by telephone and in writing as soon as reasonably possible. Requests shall be in a format established by the Office or the Monitor and shall contain at least, but not limited to, the following elements for each patient:

1) The name and date of birth of the patient; and

2) The time period for which information is being requested.

C. The Office or the Monitor shall take reasonable steps to verify each registration, such as, but not limited to, making a telephone call to the prescriber and licensed health care practitioners duly authorized by prescribers, or to an agent of the prescriber at a telephone number known to belong to the prescriber's place of business.

4. By executive director, board investigator, or person authorized to discharge equivalent functions of a licensing board.

A. An executive director, board investigator, or person authorized to discharge equivalent functions of a licensing board with jurisdiction over a dispenser or prescriber may obtain any prescription monitoring information as required for an investigation, with reasonable cause. The information shall be provided in a format established by the Office, which may include, but is not limited to delivery by electronic means, facsimile transmission, or telephonic communication.

B. An executive director, board investigator, or person authorized to discharge equivalent functions of a licensing board with jurisdiction over a dispenser or prescriber who seeks access to prescription monitoring information described above must submit a request via mail, facsimile, or secure electronic transmission, to a location specified by the Monitor or the Office. The request shall contain identifying information regarding the licensee or patient and the time period for which the information is being requested. The data requester shall certify that each request is related to an investigation involving misuse of a Schedule II, III, or IV drug and provide a case number or other assurance that the request is related to the board representative's official duties.

5. By personnel of any vendor or contractor engaged by the Office

A. Personnel of any vendor or contractor engaged by the Office may obtain any prescription monitoring information insofar as the information is necessary for establishing and maintaining the program's electronic system.

B. The Office, the monitor, and program vendors or contractors engaged by the Office, shall purge all prescription monitoring information more than six years old.

6. By the units within the Department of Health and Human Services that administer the MaineCare program.

A. Subject to the requirements of 22 M.R.S.A. §7250(4)(F), the authorized representative of those units of the Department of Health and Human Services which oversee, administer, or otherwise supervise MaineCare programs which determine eligibility for and use of prescription drugs, and the appropriate utilization of prescription drugs, for the purposes of managing the care of MaineCare members, monitoring the purchase of controlled substances by MaineCare members, and avoiding duplicate dispensing of controlled substances to MaineCare members.

B. The person or persons authorized pursuant to Section 7(6)(A) must submit a request via mail, facsimile, or secure electronic transmission, to a location specified by the Monitor or the Office. The request shall contain surname, first name, and date of birth of the member and the time period for which the information is being requested. An intervention approach shall be undertaken with MaineCare members who are determined to be accessing controlled substances in a quantity or with a frequency beyond the norm for persons with similar medical conditions or diagnoses and the intervention approach shall not include terminating the member from MaineCare services.

7. By the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

A. The Chief Medical Examiner or a designee may obtain any prescription monitoring information as required for an investigation or inquiry into the cause, manner and circumstances of death in a medical examiner case. The information shall be provided in a format established by the Office of Substance Abuse, which may include, but is not limited to delivery by electronic means, facsimile transmission, or telephonic communication.

B. The Chief Medical Examiner or a designee must submit a request via mail, facsimile, or secure electronic transmission, to a location specified by the Monitor or the Office. The request shall contain the surname, first name, and date of birth of the decedent and the time period for which the information is being requested.

Maryland

West's Annotated Code of Maryland (2012)
Health--General
Title 21. Food, Drugs, and Cosmetics
Subtitle 2A. Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

§ 21-2A-06. Confidentiality of prescription monitoring data

Data not subject to discovery or subpoena

(a) Prescription monitoring data:

(1) Are confidential and privileged, and not subject to discovery, subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion in civil litigation;

(2) Are not public records; and

(3) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (d) of this section or as otherwise provided by law, may not be disclosed to any person.

Allowable disclosure of prescription monitoring data

(b) The Program shall disclose prescription monitoring data, in accordance with regulations adopted by the Secretary, to:

(1) A prescriber, or a licensed health care practitioner authorized by the prescriber, in connection with the medical care of a patient;

(2) A dispenser, or a licensed health care practitioner authorized by the dispenser, in connection with the dispensing of a monitored prescription drug;

(3) A federal law enforcement agency or a State or local law enforcement agency, on issuance of a subpoena, for the purpose of furthering an existing bona fide individual investigation;

(4) A licensing entity, on issuance of an administrative subpoena voted on by a quorum of the board of the licensing entity, for the purposes of furthering an existing bona fide individual investigation;

(5) A rehabilitation program under a health occupations board, on issuance of an administrative subpoena;

(6) A patient with respect to prescription monitoring data about the patient;

(7) Subject to subsection (g) of this section, the authorized administrator of another state's prescription drug monitoring program;

(8) The following units of the Department, on approval of the Secretary, for the purpose of furthering an existing bona fide individual investigation:

(i) The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner;

(ii) The Maryland Medical Assistance Program;

(iii) The Office of the Inspector General; and

(iv) The Office of Health Care Quality; or

(9) The technical advisory committee established under § 21-2A-07 of this subtitle for the purposes set forth in subsection (c) of this section.

Review of requests for information

(c) Before the Program discloses information under subsection (b)(3), (4), (5), (7), or (8) of this section, the technical advisory committee to the Program shall:

(1) Review the requests for information;

(2) Provide clinical guidance and interpretation of the information requested to the Secretary to assist in the Secretary's decision on how to respond to a judicial subpoena, administrative subpoena, or other request; and

(3) Provide clinical guidance and interpretation of the information requested to the authorized recipient of the information.

Persons who receive prescription monitoring data prohibited from disclosure

(d) Except as provided by regulations adopted by the Secretary, a person who receives prescription monitoring data from the Program may not disclose the data.

Disclosure of data for research, analysis, public reporting, and education

(e)(1) In addition to the disclosures required under subsection (b) of this section, the Program may disclose prescription monitoring data for research, analysis, public reporting, and education:

(i) After redaction of all information that could identify a patient, prescriber, dispenser, or any other individual; and

(ii) In accordance with regulations adopted by the Secretary.

(2) The Secretary may require submission of an abstract explaining the scope and purpose of the research, analysis, public reporting, or education before disclosing prescription monitoring data under this subsection.

Injunctive relief

(f) The Office of the Attorney General may seek appropriate injunctive or other relief to maintain the confidentiality of prescription monitoring data as required under this section.

Prescription monitoring data shared with other states

(g) The Program may provide prescription monitoring data to another state's prescription drug monitoring program only if the other state's prescription drug monitoring program agrees to use the prescription monitoring data in a manner consistent with the provisions of this subtitle.

Request and receipt of prescription monitoring data from other states

(h) The Program may:

(1) Request and receive prescription monitoring data from another state's prescription drug monitoring program and use the prescription monitoring data in a manner consistent with the provisions of this subtitle; and

(2) Develop the capability to transmit prescription monitoring data to and receive prescription monitoring data from other prescription drug monitoring programs employing the standards of interoperability.

Written agreements with other states

(i) The Program may enter into written agreements with other states' prescription drug monitoring programs for the purpose of establishing the terms and conditions for sharing prescription monitoring data under this section.

Clinical practice standards

(j) Prescription monitoring data may not be used as the basis for imposing clinical practice standards.

Minnesota

Per the state PDMP representative, Minnesota is doing a pilot program to allow access to county coroners and medical examiners.

Headquarters Office: THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR MODEL STATE DRUG LAWS. 215 Lincoln Ave. Suite 201, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

Mississippi

Per the state PMP representative, Mississippi allows access by county coroners and/or medical examiners.

Headquarters Office: THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR MODEL STATE DRUG LAWS. 215 Lincoln Ave. Suite 201, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

Montana

West's Montana Code Annotated (2012)
Title 37. Professions and Occupations
Chapter 7. Pharmacy
Part 15. Prescription Drug Registry

§ 37-7-1506. Providing prescription drug registry information

(1) Registry information is health care information as defined in 50-16-504 and is confidential. Except as provided in 37-7-1504, the board is authorized to provide data from the registry, upon request, only to the following:

(a) a person authorized to prescribe or dispense prescription drugs if the person certifies that the information is needed to provide medical or pharmaceutical treatment to a patient who is the subject of the request and who is under the person's care or has been referred to the person for care;

(b) a prescriber who requests information relating to the prescriber's own prescribing information if the prescriber certifies that the requested information is for a purpose in accordance with board rule;

(c) an individual requesting the individual's registry information if the individual provides evidence satisfactory to the board that the individual requesting the information is the person about whom the data entry was made;

(d) a designated representative of a government agency responsible for licensing, regulating, or disciplining licensed health care professionals who are authorized to prescribe, administer, or dispense drugs, in order to conduct investigations related to a health care professional who is the subject of an active investigation for drug misuse or diversion;

(e) a county coroner or a peace officer employed by a federal, state, tribal, or local law enforcement agency if the county coroner or peace officer has obtained an investigative subpoena;

(f) an authorized individual under the direction of the department of public health and human services for the purpose of reviewing and enforcing that department's responsibilities under the public health, medicare, or medicaid laws; or

(g) a prescription drug registry in another state if the data is subject to limitations and restrictions similar to those provided in 37-7-1502 through 37-7-1513.

(2) The board shall maintain a record of each individual or entity that requests information from the registry and whether the request was granted pursuant to this section.

(3) The board may release information in summary, statistical, or aggregate form for educational, research, or public information purposes. The information may not identify a person or entity.

(4) Information collected by or obtained from the registry may not be used:

(a) for commercial purposes; or

(b) as evidence in any civil or administrative action, except in an investigation and disciplinary proceeding by the department or the agency responsible for licensing, regulating, or disciplining licensed health care professionals who are authorized to prescribe, administer, or dispense prescription drugs.

(5) Information obtained from the registry in accordance with the requirements of this section may be used in the course of a criminal investigation and subsequent criminal proceedings.

(6) The board shall adopt rules to ensure that only authorized individuals have access to the registry and only to appropriate information from the registry. The rules must be consistent with:

(a) the privacy provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1320d, et seq.;

(b) administrative rules adopted in connection with that act;

(c) Article II, section 10, of the Montana constitution; and

(d) the privacy provisions of Title 50, chapter 16.

(7) The procedures established by the board under this section may not impede patient access to prescription drugs for legitimate medical purposes.

New York

Mckinney's Consolidated Laws of New York Annotated (2012)
Public Health Law
Chapter 45. Of the Consolidated Laws
Article 33. Controlled Substances
Title VI. Records and Reports

<Text of Section Effective August 27, 2013>

§ 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) to the prescription monitoring program registry and to authorized users of such registry as set forth in subdivision two of his section;

(e) 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) 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) 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) 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) 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) 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. 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 subparagraph (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 subparagraph (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. 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 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. 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.

North Carolina

West's North Carolina General Statutes (2012)
Chapter 90. Medicine and Allied Occupations
Article 5E. North Carolina Controlled Substances Reporting System Act

§ 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.

(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.

(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 and 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 court pursuant to a lawful court order in a criminal action.

(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 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 Dakota

Per the state PMP representative, North Dakota allows access by medical examiners who are licensed prescribers.

Headquarters Office: THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR MODEL STATE DRUG LAWS. 215 Lincoln Ave. Suite 201, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

Tennessee

West's Tennessee Code Annotated (2012)
Title 53. Food, Drugs and Cosmetics
Chapter 10. Legend Drugs
Part 3. Controlled Substance Monitoring Act of 2002

<Text of Section Effective Until January 1, 2013>

§ 53-10-306. Confidentiality; disclosure; penalties

(a) Information sent to, contained in, and reported from the database in any format is confidential and not subject to title 10, chapter 7, regarding public records, and not subject to subpoena from any court and shall be made available only as provided for in § 53-10-308 and to the following persons, and in accordance with the limitations stated and rules promulgated pursuant to this part:

(1) Personnel of the committee specifically assigned to conduct analysis or research;

(2) Authorized committee, board, or department of health personnel engaged in analysis of controlled substances prescription information as a part of the assigned duties and responsibilities of their employment;

(3) A licensed health care practitioner having authority to prescribe or dispense controlled substances, to the extent the information relates specifically to a current or bona fide prospective patient of the practitioner, to whom the practitioner has prescribed or dispensed or is prescribing or dispensing or considering prescribing or dispensing any controlled substance;

(4) A licensed pharmacist having authority to dispense controlled substances to the extent the information relates specifically to a current patient to whom that pharmacist has dispensed, is dispensing or considering dispensing any controlled substance;

(5) A county medical examiner appointed pursuant to § 38-7-104 when acting in an official capacity as established in § 38-7-109; provided, any access to information from the database shall be subject to the confidentiality provisions of this part except where information obtained from the database is appropriately included in any official report of the county medical examiners, toxicological reports or autopsy reports issued by the county medical examiner under § 38-7-110(c).

(6) A quality improvement committee as defined in § 68-11-272 of a hospital licensed under Title 68 or Title 33, as part of the committee's confidential and privileged activities under § 68-11-272(b)(4) with respect to the evaluation, supervision or discipline of a healthcare provider

employed by the hospital or any of its affiliates or subsidiaries, who is known or suspected by the hospital's administrator to be prescribing controlled substances for the prescriber's personal use;

(7) Personnel of the following entities actively engaged in analysis of controlled substances prescription information as a part of their assigned duties and responsibilities related directly to TennCare:

(A) The office of inspector general;

(B) The medicaid fraud control unit; and

(C) The bureau of TennCare's chief medical officer, associate chief medical directors, director of quality oversight, and associate director of pharmacy; or

(8) Law enforcement personnel; provided, that such personnel are engaged in the official investigation and enforcement of state or federal laws involving controlled substances; and that any law enforcement personnel receiving information from the database pursuant to this section shall comply with the requirements of this subsection (a):

(A)(i) Any law enforcement agency or judicial district drug task force that wants one (1) or more of its officers or agents to have the authorization to request information from the database shall first pre-approve each such officer. Pre-approval shall be by the applicant's supervisor, who shall be either the chief of police, county sheriff or the judicial district drug task force director. The list of pre-approved applicants shall be sent to the district attorney general in the judicial district in which the agency or task force has jurisdiction.

(ii) By December 1 of each year, each district attorney general shall send to the board of pharmacy a list of applicants authorized to request information from the database from that general's judicial district for the next calendar year.

(B)(i) If the Tennessee bureau of investigation (TBI) wants one (1) or more of its agents to have the authorization to request information from the database each such agent shall first be pre-approved by the agent's immediate supervisor and division head. Approved applicants shall be sent to the board by the director.

(ii) By December 1 of each year, the TBI director shall send to the board of pharmacy a list of applicants authorized to request information from the database from the bureau for the next calendar year.

(C) An application submitted by a law enforcement agency, a judicial drug task force or the TBI shall include, but not be limited to the:

(i) Applicant's name; title; agency; agency address; agency contact number; agency supervisor; and badge number, identification number or commission number, and the business email address of each applicant officer or agent, the appropriate district attorney general and, if a TBI agent, the TBI director and their business email addresses; and

(ii) Signatures of the applicant, the applicants approving supervisor and the district attorney general of the judicial district in which the applicant has jurisdiction or the approving division head and the TBI director.

(D) It shall be a duty of the board, as part of its duties to maintain the database pursuant to § 53-10-305(c), to receive and verify the lists of authorized applications sent to it by the district attorneys general and the director of the TBI pursuant to this subsection (a).

(b) When requesting information from the database, the board shall require law enforcement personnel to provide a case number as part of the process for requesting information from the database. The case number entered shall correspond with an official investigation involving controlled substances and information requested should directly relate to the investigation.

(c) The board of pharmacy shall by rule, establish a fee for providing information to a law enforcement agency, judicial district drug task force or TBI pursuant to this section. In determining the fee and type of fee to be charged, the board shall consider options such as an annual fee or a per use, incremental cost basis fee.

(d)(1) Law enforcement personnel and judicial district drug task force agents who are authorized to request information from the database shall resubmit their identifying application information that was submitted pursuant to subdivision (a)(6)(C) to the appropriate district attorney by November 20 of each year. Such resubmitted applications shall be sent by the appropriate district attorney general to the board by December 1 of each year. If during the calendar year a name is added to the list, removed from the list or information about a person on the list changes, the appropriate district attorney shall immediately notify the board of any changes to the list submitted or in the information submitted for each officer or agent on the list application.

(2) TBI agents who are authorized to request information from the database shall resubmit their identifying application information that was submitted pursuant to subdivision (a)(6)(C) to the TBI director by November 20 of each year. Such resubmitted applications shall be sent by the TBI director to the board by December 1 of each year. If during the calendar year a name is added to the list, removed from the list or information about a person on the list changes, the TBI director shall immediately notify the board of any changes to the list submitted or in the information submitted for each officer or agent on the list application.

(e)(1) Information obtained from the database may be shared with other law enforcement personnel or prosecutorial officials, only upon the direction of the officer or agent who originally

requested the information and may only be shared with law enforcement personnel from other law enforcement agencies who are directly participating in an official joint investigation.

(2) Any information obtained from the data base that is sent to a law enforcement official or a judicial district drug task force agent shall also be sent to the district attorney general of the judicial district in which such officer or agent has jurisdiction. Likewise, any database information sent to a TBI agent shall also be sent to the TBI director.

(f) To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of patient records, information obtained from the database by law enforcement personnel shall be retained by the law enforcement personnel's respective department or agency. The information obtained from the database shall not be made a public record, notwithstanding the use of the information in court for prosecution purposes. Information obtained from the database shall be maintained as evidence in accordance with each law enforcement agency's respective procedures relating to the maintenance of evidence.

(g) Any information disseminated pursuant to subdivisions (a)(1)-(6) shall be released to the individual or entity requesting the information by the database manager or by password protected internet access.

(h) Any licensed practitioner or pharmacist receiving patient-specific information pursuant to subdivision (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3) or (a)(4) shall not disclose the information to any person other than:

(1) The patient to whom the information relates and then only for the purpose of adjusting the patient's treatment plans or counseling the patient to seek substance abuse treatment;

(2) Other dispensers identified by the information and then only for the purposes of verifying the accuracy of the information; and

(3) Any law enforcement agency or judicial district drug task force to whom reporting of controlled substances being obtained in a manner prohibited by § 53-11-402(a)(6) is required by § 53-11-309.

(i) If a law enforcement officer, judicial district drug task force agent or TBI agent has probable cause to believe, based upon information received from a database request, that a prescriber or pharmacist may be acting or may have acted in violation of the law, the officer or agent shall consult with the board of pharmacy inspector's office if a pharmacist and the health related boards' investigations unit if a prescriber.

(j)(1) At least every six (6) months, the board shall send a list to each district attorney general containing all requests made for database information during the previous six (6) months. The list shall include the name of the requesting officer or agent, the officer or agent's agency, the date of the request, and the nature of the request, including the case number, for each officer or

agent making a request in such district attorney's judicial district. Likewise, a list shall be sent to the director of the TBI for all TBI agents making requests during the previous six (6) months.

(2) Each district attorney general and the TBI director shall use the list to perform an audit to determine if the database information requests made during the preceding six (6) month period correspond to specific cases under investigation in the applicable judicial district or by the bureau and if the information requested is relevant and pertinent to an investigation.

(3) Each district attorney general and the TBI director shall verify all database information requests contained on the list received and send it back to the board within sixty (60) days of receipt. If a database information request does not correspond to an investigation in the applicable jurisdiction or if the information requested was not relevant or pertinent to the information requested, the district attorney general or director shall so note on the verified list and shall investigate the discrepancy and make a report back to the board within a reasonable period of time.

(4) The results of the audit conducted pursuant to subdivision (j)(2) shall be discoverable by a prescriber or pharmacist charged with violating any state or federal law involving controlled substances or under a notice of charges proffered by a licensing board for a violation of any law involving controlled substances, but only the results pertaining to that prescriber or pharmacist is discoverable. However, if there is an active criminal investigation involving a prescriber or the prescriber is under investigation by the health related boards' investigation unit, the results of the audit conducted pursuant to subdivision (j)(2) shall not be discoverable by the prescriber during either such period.

(k)(1) Any person who obtains or attempts to obtain information from the database by misrepresentation or fraud is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(2) Any person who knowingly uses, releases, publishes, or otherwise makes available to any other person or entity any information submitted to, contained in, or obtained from the database for any purpose other than those specified in this part is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(3) Intentional unauthorized use or disclosure of database information by law enforcement personnel, judicial district drug task force members or TBI agents shall be punishable as a Class A misdemeanor.

(4) Any law enforcement personnel, judicial district drug task force member or TBI agent charged with a violation of this section shall have such person's authorization to request information from the database suspended pending final disposition of any criminal prosecution. Any law enforcement personnel, judicial district drug task force member or TBI agent found guilty of a violation of this subsection (i) shall have such person's authorization to request information from the database permanently revoked.

(5) Where an individual authorized under subsection (a) acts in good faith in accessing or using information from the database in accordance with the limitations under this part, that person shall not incur any civil or criminal liability as a result of that use or access.

(l)(1) The following personnel of the department of mental health and substance abuse services actively engaged in analysis of controlled substances prescription information as a part of their assigned duties and responsibilities shall have access to the database for controlled substances prescription information for specific patients:

(A) The chief pharmacist;

(B) The state opioid treatment authority (SOTA) or SOTA designee; and

(C) The medical director.

(2) Aggregate controlled substances prescribing information from the database may be provided upon request by the following personnel of the department of mental health and substance abuse services, who are actively engaged in analysis of controlled substances prescription information as provided in this subsection (l), and may be shared with other personnel of the department of mental health and substance abuse services as needed to fulfill assigned duties and responsibilities:

(A) The chief pharmacist;

(B) The SOTA; or

(C) The medical director.

(m) Where an investigation is conducted under § 38-7-109, and information within the database is obtained pursuant to the requirements of this part, there exists a rebuttable presumption that the county medical examiner is acting in good faith.

West's Tennessee Code Annotated (2012)
Title 53. Food, Drugs and Cosmetics
Chapter 10. Legend Drugs
Part 3. Controlled Substance Monitoring Act of 2002

<Text of Section Effective January 1, 2013>

§ 53-10-306. Confidentiality; disclosure; penalties

(a) Information sent to, contained in, and reported from the database in any format is confidential and not subject to title 10, chapter 7, regarding public records, and not subject to subpoena from any court and shall be made available only as provided for in § 53-10-308 and to the following persons in accordance with the limitations stated and rules promulgated pursuant to this part, or as other provided for in § 53-10-311:

(1) Personnel of the committee specifically assigned to conduct analysis or research;

(2) Authorized committee, board, or Department of Health personnel or any designee appointed by the committee engaged in analysis of controlled substances prescription information as a part of the assigned duties and responsibilities of their employment;

(3) A prescriber conducting medication history reviews who is actively involved in the care of a patient; a prescriber or supervising physician of the prescriber conducting a review of all medications dispensed by prescription attributed to that prescriber; or a prescriber having authority to prescribe or dispense controlled substances, to the extent the information relates specifically to a current or bona fide prospective patient of the prescriber, to whom the prescriber has prescribed or dispensed, is prescribing or dispensing, or considering prescribing or dispensing any controlled substance. Each authorized individual referenced under this subdivision shall have a separate identifiable authentication for access;

(4) A dispenser or pharmacist not authorized to dispense controlled substances conducting drug utilization or medication history reviews who is actively involved in the care of a patient; or a dispenser having authority to dispense controlled substances to the extent the information relates specifically to a current or a bone fide prospective patient to whom that dispenser has dispensed, is dispensing, or considering dispensing any controlled substance. Each authorized individual referenced under this subdivision shall have a separate identifiable authentication for access;

(5) A health care practitioner extender, who is acting under the direction and supervision of a prescriber or dispenser, and only to the extent the information relates specifically to a current or bona fide prospective patient to whom the prescriber or dispenser has prescribed or dispensed, is prescribing or dispensing, or considering prescribing or dispensing any controlled substance. Each authorized individual referenced under this subdivision shall have a separate identifiable authentication for access;

(6) A county medical examiner appointed pursuant to § 38-7-104 when acting in an official capacity as established in § 38-7-109; provided, any access to information from the database shall be subject to the confidentiality provisions of this part except where information obtained from the database is appropriately included in any official report of the county medical examiners, toxicological reports or autopsy reports issued by the county medical examiner under § 38-7-110(c).

(7) A quality improvement committee as defined in § 68-11-272 of a hospital licensed under Title 68 or Title 33, as part of the committee's confidential and privileged activities under § 68-11-272(b)(4) with respect to the evaluation, supervision or discipline of a healthcare provider employed by the hospital or any of its affiliates or subsidiaries, who is known or suspected by the hospital's administrator to be prescribing controlled substances for the prescriber's personal use;

(8) Personnel of the following entities actively engaged in analysis of controlled substances prescription information as a part of their assigned duties and responsibilities related directly to TennCare:

(A) The office of inspector general;

(B) The medicaid fraud control unit; and

(C) The bureau of TennCare's chief medical officer, associate chief medical directors, director of quality oversight, and associate director of pharmacy; or

(9) Law enforcement personnel; provided, that such personnel are engaged in the official investigation and enforcement of state or federal laws involving controlled substances or violations under this part; and that any law enforcement personnel receiving information from the database pursuant to this section shall comply with the requirements of this subsection (a):

(A)(i) Any law enforcement agency or judicial district drug task force that wants one (1) or more of its officers or agents to have the authorization to request information from the database shall first pre-approve each such officer. Pre-approval shall be by the applicant's supervisor, who shall be either the chief of police, county sheriff or the judicial district drug task force director. The list of pre-approved applicants shall be sent to the district attorney general in the judicial district in which the agency or task force has jurisdiction.

(ii) By December 1 of each year, each district attorney general shall send to the board of pharmacy a list of applicants authorized to request information from the database from that general's judicial district for the next calendar year.

(B)(i) If the Tennessee bureau of investigation (TBI) wants one (1) or more of its agents to have the authorization to request information from the database each such agent shall first be pre-approved by the agent's immediate supervisor and division head. Approved applicants shall be sent to the board by the director.

(ii) By December 1 of each year, the TBI director shall send to the board of pharmacy a list of applicants authorized to request information from the database from the bureau for the next calendar year.

(C) An application submitted by law enforcement personnel shall include, but not be limited to the:

(i) Applicant's name; title; agency; agency address; agency contact number; agency supervisor; and badge number, identification number or commission number, and the business email address of each applicant officer or agent, the appropriate district attorney general and, if a TBI agent, the TBI director and their business email addresses; and

(ii) Signatures of the applicant, the applicants approving supervisor and the district attorney general of the judicial district in which the applicant has jurisdiction or the approving division head and the TBI director.

(D) It shall be a duty of the board, as part of its duties to maintain the database pursuant to § 53-10-305(c), to receive and verify the lists of authorized applications sent to it by the district attorneys general and the director of the TBI pursuant to this subsection (a).

(b) When requesting information from the database, the board shall require law enforcement personnel to provide a case number as part of the process for requesting information from the database. The case number entered shall correspond with an official investigation involving controlled substances and information requested should directly relate to the investigation.

(c) The board of pharmacy shall by rule, establish a fee for providing information to a law enforcement agency, judicial district drug task force or TBI pursuant to this section. In determining the fee and type of fee to be charged, the board shall consider options such as an annual fee or a per use, incremental cost basis fee.

(d)(1) Law enforcement personnel and judicial district drug task force agents who are authorized to request information from the database shall resubmit their identifying application information that was submitted pursuant to subdivision (a)(6)(C) to the appropriate district attorney by November 20 of each year. Such resubmitted applications shall be sent by the appropriate district attorney general to the board by December 1 of each year. If during the calendar year a name is added to the list, removed from the list or information about a person on the list changes, the appropriate district attorney shall immediately notify the board of any changes to the list submitted or in the information submitted for each officer or agent on the list application.

(2) TBI agents who are authorized to request information from the database shall resubmit their identifying application information that was submitted pursuant to subdivision (a)(6)(C) to the TBI director by November 20 of each year. Such resubmitted applications shall be sent by the TBI director to the board by December 1 of each year. If during the calendar year a name is added to the list, removed from the list or information about a person on the list changes, the TBI director shall immediately notify the board of any changes to the list submitted or in the information submitted for each officer or agent on the list application.

(e)(1) Information obtained from the database may be shared with other law enforcement personnel or prosecutorial officials, only upon the direction of the officer or agent who originally requested the information and may only be shared with law enforcement personnel from other law enforcement agencies who are directly participating in an official joint investigation.

(2) Any information obtained from the data base that is sent to a law enforcement official or a judicial district drug task force agent shall also be sent to the district attorney general of the judicial district in which such officer or agent has jurisdiction. Likewise, any database information sent to a TBI agent shall also be sent to the TBI director.

(f) To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of patient records, information obtained from the database by law enforcement personnel shall be retained by the law enforcement personnel's respective department or agency. The information obtained from the database shall not be made a public record, notwithstanding the use of the information in court for prosecution purposes. Information obtained from the database shall be maintained as evidence in accordance with each law enforcement agency's respective procedures relating to the maintenance of evidence.

(g) Any information disseminated pursuant to subdivisions (a)(1)-(8) shall be released to the individual or entity requesting the information by the database manager or by password protected internet access.

(h) Any prescriber, dispenser or health care practitioner extender receiving patient-specific information pursuant to subdivision (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3) or (a)(4) shall not disclose the information to any person other than:

(1) The patient to whom the information relates for the purpose of adjusting the patient's treatment plans or counseling the patient to seek substance abuse treatment;

(2) Other dispensers or prescribers who are involved or have a bone fide prospective involvement in the treatment of the patient, or dispensers or prescribers identified by the information for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of the information; or

(3) Any law enforcement personnel to whom reporting of controlled substances being obtained in a manner prohibited by § 53-11-401, § 53-11-402(a)(3) or (a)(6) and required by § 53-11-309, or any agent of the prescriber who is directed by the prescriber to cause a report to law enforcement to be made in accordance with § 53-11-309(a) and (d).

(i) If a law enforcement officer, judicial district drug task force agent or TBI agent has probable cause to believe, based upon information received from a database request, that a prescriber or pharmacist may be acting or may have acted in violation of the law, the officer or agent shall consult with the board of pharmacy inspector's office if a pharmacist and the health related boards' investigations unit if a prescriber.

(j)(1) At least every six (6) months, the board shall send a list to each district attorney general containing all requests made for database information during the previous six (6) months. The list shall include the name of the requesting officer or agent, the officer or agent's agency, the date of the request, and the nature of the request, including the case number, for each officer or agent making a request in such district attorney's judicial district. Likewise, a list shall be sent to the director of the TBI for all TBI agents making requests during the previous six (6) months.

(2) Each district attorney general and the TBI director shall use the list to perform an audit to determine if the database information requests made during the preceding six (6) month period correspond to specific cases under investigation in the applicable judicial district or by the bureau and if the information requested is relevant and pertinent to an investigation.

(3) Each district attorney general and the TBI director shall verify all database information requests contained on the list received and send it back to the board within sixty (60) days of receipt. If a database information request does not correspond to an investigation in the applicable jurisdiction or if the information requested was not relevant or pertinent to the information requested, the district attorney general or director shall so note on the verified list and shall investigate the discrepancy and make a report back to the board within a reasonable period of time.

(4) The results of the audit conducted pursuant to subdivision (j)(2) shall be discoverable by a prescriber, dispenser or health care practitioner extender charged with violating any state or federal law involving controlled substances or under a notice of charges proffered by an appropriate licensing board for a violation of any law involving controlled substances, but only the results pertaining to that prescriber, dispenser or health care practitioner extender are discoverable. If, however, there is an active criminal investigation involving a prescriber, dispenser or health care practitioner extender or the prescriber, dispenser or health care practitioner extender is under investigation by any investigations or prosecutions unit of the appropriate licensure board, the results of the audit conducted pursuant to subdivision (j)(2) shall not be discoverable by the prescriber, dispenser or health care practitioner extender during either such period.

(k)(1) Any person who obtains or attempts to obtain information from the database by misrepresentation or fraud is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(2) Any person who knowingly uses, releases, publishes, or otherwise makes available to any other person or entity any information submitted to, contained in, or obtained from the database for any purpose other than those specified in this part is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

(3) Intentional unauthorized use or disclosure of database information by law enforcement personnel, judicial district drug task force members or TBI agents shall be punishable as a Class A misdemeanor.

(4) Any law enforcement personnel, judicial district drug task force member or TBI agent charged with a violation of this section shall have such person's authorization to request information from the database suspended pending final disposition of any criminal prosecution. Any law enforcement personnel, judicial district drug task force member or TBI agent found guilty of a violation of this subsection (i) shall have such person's authorization to request information from the database permanently revoked.

(5) Where an individual authorized under subsection (a) acts in good faith in accessing or using information from the database in accordance with the limitations under this part, that person shall not incur any civil or criminal liability as a result of that use or access.

(l)(1) The following personnel of the department of mental health and substance abuse services actively engaged in analysis of controlled substances prescription information as a part of their assigned duties and responsibilities shall have access to the database for controlled substances prescription information for specific patients:

(A) The chief pharmacist;

(B) The state opioid treatment authority (SOTA) or SOTA designee; and

(C) The medical director.

(2) Aggregate controlled substances prescribing information from the database may be provided upon request by the following personnel of the department of mental health and substance abuse services, who are actively engaged in analysis of controlled substances prescription information as provided in this subsection (l), and may be shared with other personnel of the department of mental health and substance abuse services as needed to fulfill assigned duties and responsibilities:

(A) The chief pharmacist;

(B) The SOTA; or

(C) The medical director.

(m) Where an investigation is conducted under § 38-7-109, and information within the database is obtained pursuant to the requirements of this part, there exists a rebuttable presumption that the county medical examiner is acting in good faith.

Virginia

West's Annotated Code of Virginia (2012)
Title 54.1. Professions and Occupations
Subtitle III. Professions and Occupations Regulated by Boards Within the Department of Health Professions
Chapter 25.2. Prescription Monitoring Program

§ 54.1-2523. Confidentiality of data; disclosure of information; discretionary authority of Director

A. All data, records, and reports relating to the prescribing and dispensing of covered substances to recipients and any abstracts from such data, records, and reports that are in the possession of the Prescription Monitoring program pursuant to this chapter and any material relating to the operation or security of the program shall be confidential and shall be exempt from the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.) pursuant to subdivision 15 of § 2.2-3705.5. Further, the Director shall only have discretion to disclose any such information as provided in subsections B and C.

B. Upon receiving a request for information in accordance with the Department's regulations and in compliance with applicable federal law and regulations, the Director shall disclose the following:

1. Information relevant to a specific investigation of a specific recipient or of a specific dispenser or prescriber to an agent designated by the superintendent of the Department of State Police to conduct drug diversion investigations pursuant to § 54.1-3405.

2. Information relevant to an investigation or inspection of or allegation of misconduct by a specific person licensed, certified, or registered by or an applicant for licensure, certification, or registration by a health regulatory board; information relevant to a disciplinary proceeding before a health regulatory board or in any subsequent trial or appeal of an action or board order to designated employees of the Department of Health Professions; or to designated persons operating the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program pursuant to Chapter 25.1 (§ 54.1-2515 et seq.) of this title.

3. Information relevant to the proceedings of any investigatory grand jury or special grand jury that has been properly impaneled in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 13 (§ 19.2-191 et seq.) of Title 19.2.

4. Information relevant to a specific investigation of a specific recipient, dispenser, or prescriber to an agent of a federal law-enforcement agency with authority to conduct drug diversion investigations.

C. In accordance with the Department's regulations and applicable federal law and regulations, the Director may, in his discretion, disclose:

1. Information in the possession of the program concerning a recipient who is over the age of 18 to that recipient.

2. Information on a specific recipient to a prescriber, as defined in this chapter, for the purpose of establishing the treatment history of the specific recipient when such recipient is either under care and treatment by the prescriber or the prescriber is initiating treatment of such recipient. In a manner specified by the Director in regulation, notice shall be given to patients that information may be requested by the prescriber from the Prescription Monitoring Program.

3. Information on a specific recipient to a dispenser for the purpose of establishing a prescription history to assist the dispenser in determining the validity of a prescription in accordance with § 54.1-3303 when the recipient is seeking a covered substance from the dispenser or the facility in which the dispenser practices. In a manner specified by the Director in regulation, notice shall be given to patients that information may be requested by the dispenser from the Prescription Monitoring Program.

4. Information relevant to an investigation or regulatory proceeding of a specific dispenser or prescriber to other regulatory authorities concerned with granting, limiting or denying licenses, certificates or registrations to practice a health profession when such regulatory authority licenses such dispenser or prescriber or such dispenser or prescriber is seeking licensure by such other regulatory authority.

5. Information relevant to an investigation relating to a specific dispenser or prescriber who is a participating provider in the Virginia Medicaid program or information relevant to an investigation relating to a specific recipient who is currently eligible for and receiving or who has been eligible for and has received medical assistance services to the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Office of the Attorney General or to designated employees of the Department of Medical Assistance Services, as appropriate.

6. Information relevant to determination of the cause of death of a specific recipient to the designated employees of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

7. Information for the purpose of bona fide research or education to qualified personnel; however, data elements that would reasonably identify a specific recipient, prescriber, or dispenser shall be deleted or redacted from such information prior to disclosure. Further, release of the information shall only be made pursuant to a written agreement between such qualified personnel and the Director in order to ensure compliance with this subdivision.

D. The Director may enter into agreements for mutual exchange of information among prescription monitoring pro-grams in other jurisdictions, which shall only use the information for purposes allowed by this chapter.

E. This section shall not be construed to supersede the provisions of § 54.1-3406 concerning the divulging of confidential records relating to investigative information.

F. Confidential information that has been received, maintained or developed by any board or disclosed by the board pursuant to subsection A shall not, under any circumstances, be available for discovery or court subpoena or introduced into evidence in any medical malpractice suit or other action for damages arising out of the provision of or failure to provide services. However, this subsection shall not be construed to inhibit any investigation or prosecution conducted pursuant to Article 1 (§ 18.2-247 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title 18.2.

Virginia Administrative Code (2012)
Title 18. Professional and Occupational Licensing
Vac Agency No. 76. Department of Health Professions
Chapter 20. Regulations Governing the Prescription Monitoring Program

18 VAC 76-20-60. Criteria for discretionary disclosure of information by the director.

A. In accordance with § 54.1-2523 C of the Code of Virginia, the director may disclose information in the program to certain persons provided the request is made in a format designated by the department.

B. The director may disclose information to:

1. The recipient of the dispensed drugs, provided the request is accompanied by a copy of a valid photo identification issued by a government agency of any jurisdiction in the United States verifying that the recipient is over the age of 18 and includes a notarized signature of the requesting party. The report shall be mailed to the address on the license or delivered to the recipient at the department.

2. The prescriber for the purpose of establishing a treatment history for a patient or prospective patient, provided the request is accompanied by the prescriber's registration number with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and attestation that the prescriber is in compliance with patient notice requirements of 18 VAC 76-20-70. The prescriber may delegate the submission of a request for information, provided the delegation is in compliance with § 54.1-2523.2 of the Code of Virginia. The health care professionals to whom the prescriber has authorized access to information shall be registered with the program. Requests for information made by a delegated health care professional shall be made in his own name, using his own unique identifiers assigned by the program.

3. Another regulatory authority conducting an investigation or disciplinary proceeding or making a decision on the granting of a license or certificate, provided the request is related to an allegation of a possible controlled substance violation and that it is accompanied by the signature of the chief executive officer who is authorized to certify orders or to grant or deny licenses.

4. Governmental entities charged with the investigation and prosecution of a dispenser, prescriber or recipient participating in the Virginia Medicaid program, provided the request is accompanied by the signature of the official within the Office of the Attorney General responsible for the investigation.

5. A dispenser for the purpose of establishing a prescription history for a specific person to assist in determining the validity of a prescription, provided the request is accompanied by the dispenser's license number issued by the relevant licensing authority and an attestation that the dispenser is in compliance with patient notice requirements of 18 VAC 76-20-70.

C. In each case, the request must be complete and provide sufficient information to ensure the correct identity of the prescriber, recipient and/or dispenser.

D. Except as provided in subdivision B 1 of this section, the request form shall include an attestation that the prescription data will not be further disclosed and only used for the purposes stated in the request and in accordance with the law.

E. In order to request disclosure of information contained in the program, a designated employee of the Department of Medical Assistance Services or of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner shall register with the director as an authorized agent entitled to receive reports under § 54.1-2523 C of the Code of Virginia.

1. Such request for registration shall include an attestation from the applicant's employer of the eligibility and identity of such person.

2. Registration as an agent authorized to receive reports shall expire on June 30 of each even-numbered year or at any such time as the agent leaves or alters his current employment or otherwise becomes ineligible to receive information from the program.

Washington

Washington Administrative Code (2012)
Title 246. Health, Department of
Chapter 246-470. Prescription Monitoring Program

246-470-060. Law enforcement, prosecutorial officials, coroners, and medical examiners' access to information from the program.

Local, state, or federal law enforcement officers and prosecutorial officials may obtain prescription monitoring information for a bona fide specific investigation involving a designated person. **A local, state, or federal coroner or medical examiner may obtain prescription monitoring information for a bona fide specific investigation to determine cause of death.**

(1) Registration for access. Local, state, or federal law enforcement officers, prosecutorial officials, coroners, and medical examiners shall register with the department in order to receive an authentication to access information from the program. The registration process shall be established by the department.

(2) Verification by the department. The department shall verify the authentication and identity of local, state, or federal law enforcement officers, prosecutorial officials, coroners, and medical examiners before allowing access to any prescription monitoring information.

(3) Procedure for accessing prescription information. Local, state, or federal law enforcement officers, prosecutorial officials, coroners and medical examiners may access information from the program electronically using the authentication issued by the department.

(4) Local, state, or federal law enforcement officers and prosecutorial officials shall electronically attest that the requested information is required for a bona fide specific investigation involving a designated person prior to accessing prescription monitoring information.

(5) Local, state, or federal coroner or medical examiners shall electronically attest that the requested information is required for a bona fide specific investigation to determine cause of death prior to accessing prescription monitoring information.

(6) Local, state, or federal law enforcement officers, prosecutorial officials, coroners and medical examiners may alternately submit a written request via mail or facsimile transmission in a format established by the department. The written request must contain an attestation that the requested information is required for a bona fide specific investigation involving a designated person or for a bona fide specific investigation to determine cause of death.

(7) Reporting lost or stolen authentication. If the authentication issued by the department is lost, missing, or the security of the authentication is compromised, the local, state, and federal law enforcement officers, prosecutorial officials, coroners or medical examiners shall notify the department by telephone and in writing as soon as reasonably possible.

(8) All requests for, uses of, and disclosures of prescription monitoring information by authorized persons must be consistent with the program's mandate as outlined in RCW 70.225.040 and this chapter.

West Virginia

West's Annotated Code of West Virginia (2012)
Chapter 60A. Uniform Controlled Substances Act
Article 9. Controlled Substances Monitoring

§ 60A-9-5. Confidentiality; limited access to records; period of retention; no civil liability for required reporting

(a)(1) The information required by this article to be kept by the State Board of Pharmacy is confidential and not subject to the provisions of chapter twenty-nine-b of this code or obtainable as discovery in civil matters absent a court order and is open to inspection only by inspectors and agents of the State Board of Pharmacy, members of the West Virginia State Police expressly authorized by the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police to have access to the information, authorized agents of local law-enforcement agencies as members of a federally affiliated drug task force, authorized agents of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, duly authorized agents of the Bureau for Medical Services, **duly authorized agents of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for use in post-mortem examinations**, duly authorized agents of licensing boards of practitioners in this state and other states authorized to prescribe Schedules II, III and IV controlled substances, prescribing practitioners and pharmacists and persons with an enforceable court order or regulatory agency administrative subpoena: Provided, That all law-enforcement personnel who have access to the Controlled Substances Monitoring Program database shall be granted access in accordance with applicable state laws and Board of Pharmacy legislative rules, shall be certified as a West Virginia law-enforcement officer and shall have successfully completed United States Drug Enforcement Administration Diversion Training and National Association of Drug Diversion Investigation Training. All information released by the State Board of Pharmacy must be related to a specific patient or a specific individual or entity under investigation by any of the above parties except that practitioners who prescribe or dispense controlled substances may request specific data related to their Drug Enforcement Administration controlled substance registration number or for the purpose of providing treatment to a patient: Provided, however, That the West Virginia Controlled Substances Monitoring Program Database Review Committee established in subsection (b) of this section is authorized to query the database to comply with said subsection.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the board shall also review the West Virginia Controlled Substance Monitoring Program database and issue reports that identify abnormal or unusual practices of patients who exceed parameters as determined by the advisory committee established in this section. The board shall communicate with prescribers and dispensers to more effectively manage the medications of their patients in the manner recommended by the advisory committee. All other reports produced by the board shall be kept confidential. The board shall maintain the information required by this article for a period of not less than five years. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this code to the contrary, data obtained under the provisions of this article may be used for compilation of educational,

scholarly or statistical purposes, and may be shared with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources for those purposes, as long as the identities of persons or entities and any personally identifiable information, including protected health information, contained therein shall be redacted, scrubbed or otherwise irreversibly destroyed in a manner that will preserve the confidential nature of the information. No individual or entity required to report under section four of this article may be subject to a claim for civil damages or other civil relief for the reporting of information to the Board of Pharmacy as required under and in accordance with the provisions of this article.

(3) The board shall establish an advisory committee to develop, implement and recommend parameters to be used in identifying abnormal or unusual usage patterns of patients in this state. This advisory committee shall:

(A) Consist of the following members: A physician licensed by the West Virginia Board of Medicine, a dentist licensed by the West Virginia Board of Dental Examiners, a physician licensed by the West Virginia Board of Osteopathy, a licensed physician certified by the American Board of Pain Medicine, a licensed physician board certified in medical oncology recommended by the West Virginia State Medical Association, a licensed physician board certified in palliative care recommended by the West Virginia Center on End of Life Care, a pharmacist licensed by the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy, a licensed physician member of the West Virginia Academy of Family Physicians, an expert in drug diversion and such other members as determined by the board.

(B) Recommend parameters to identify abnormal or unusual usage patterns of controlled substances for patients in order to prepare reports as requested in accordance with subsection (a), subdivision (2) of this section.

(C) Make recommendations for training, research and other areas that are determined by the committee to have the potential to reduce inappropriate use of prescription drugs in this state, including, but not limited to, studying issues related to diversion of controlled substances used for the management of opioid addiction.

(D) Monitor the ability of medical services providers, health care facilities, pharmacists and pharmacies to meet the twenty-four hour reporting requirement for the Controlled Substances Monitoring Program set forth in section three of this article, and report on the feasibility of requiring real-time reporting.

(E) Establish outreach programs with local law enforcement to provide education to local law enforcement on the requirements and use of the Controlled Substances Monitoring Program database established in this article.

(b) The Board of Pharmacy shall create a West Virginia Controlled Substances Monitoring Program Database Review Committee of individuals consisting of two prosecuting attorneys

from West Virginia counties, two physicians with specialties which require extensive use of controlled substances and a pharmacist who is trained in the use and abuse of controlled substances. The review committee may determine that an additional physician who is an expert in the field under investigation be added to the team when the facts of a case indicate that the additional expertise is required. The review committee, working independently, may query the database based on parameters established by the advisory committee. The review committee may make determinations on a case-by-case basis on specific unusual prescribing or dispensing patterns indicated by outliers in the system or abnormal or unusual usage patterns of controlled substances by patients which the review committee has reasonable cause to believe necessitates further action by law enforcement or the licensing board having jurisdiction over the prescribers or dispensers under consideration. The review committee shall also review notices provided by the chief medical examiner pursuant to subsection (h), section ten, article twelve, chapter sixty-one of this code and determine on a case-by-case basis whether a practitioner who prescribed or dispensed a controlled substance resulting in or contributing to the drug overdose may have breached professional or occupational standards or committed a criminal act when prescribing the controlled substance at issue to the decedent. Only in those cases in which there is reasonable cause to believe a breach of professional or occupational standards or a criminal act may have occurred, the review committee shall notify the appropriate professional licensing agency having jurisdiction over the applicable prescriber or dispenser and appropriate law-enforcement agencies and provide pertinent information from the database for their consideration. The number of cases identified shall be determined by the review committee based on a number that can be adequately reviewed by the review committee. The information obtained and developed may not be shared except as provided in this article and is not subject to the provisions of chapter twenty-nine-b of this code or obtainable as discovering in civil matters absent a court order.

(c) The Board of Pharmacy is responsible for establishing and providing administrative support for the advisory committee and the West Virginia Controlled Substances Monitoring Program Database Review Committee. The advisory committee and the review committee shall elect a chair by majority vote. Members of the advisory committee and the review committee may not be compensated in their capacity as members but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(d) The board shall promulgate rules with advice and consent of the advisory committee, in accordance with the provisions of article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code on or before June 1, 2013. The legislative rules must include, but shall not be limited to, the following matters: (1) Identifying parameters used in identifying abnormal or unusual prescribing or dispensing patterns; (2) processing parameters and developing reports of abnormal or unusual prescribing or dispensing patterns for patients, practitioners and dispensers; (3) establishing the information to be contained in reports and the process by which the reports will be generated and disseminated; and (4) setting up processes and procedures to ensure that the privacy, confidentiality, and security of information collected, recorded, transmitted and maintained by the review committee is not disclosed except as provided in this section.

(e) All practitioners, as that term is defined in section one hundred-one, article two of this chapter who prescribe or dispense schedule II, III or IV controlled substances shall, on or before July 1, 2011, have online or other form of electronic access to the West Virginia Controlled Substances Monitoring Program database;

(f) Persons or entities with access to the West Virginia Controlled Substances Monitoring Program database pursuant to this section may, pursuant to rules promulgated by the Board of Pharmacy, delegate appropriate personnel to have access to said database;

(g) Good faith reliance by a practitioner on information contained in the West Virginia Controlled Substances Monitoring Program database in prescribing or dispensing or refusing or declining to prescribe or dispense a schedule II, III or IV controlled substance shall constitute an absolute defense in any civil or criminal action brought due to prescribing or dispensing or refusing or declining to prescribe or dispense; and

(h) A prescribing or dispensing practitioner may notify law enforcement of a patient who, in the prescribing or dispensing practitioner's judgment, may be in violation of section four hundred ten, article four of this chapter, based on information obtained and reviewed from the controlled substances monitoring database. A prescribing or dispensing practitioner who makes a notification pursuant to this subsection is immune from any civil, administrative or criminal liability that otherwise might be incurred or imposed because of the notification if the notification is made in good faith.

(i) Nothing in the article may be construed to require a practitioner to access the West Virginia Controlled Substances Monitoring Program database except as provided in section five-a of this article.

(j) The Board of Pharmacy shall provide an annual report on the West Virginia Controlled Substance Monitoring Program to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability with recommendations for needed legislation no later than January 1 of each year.