California's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)

Name of Program: Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES)

Overseeing Agency: Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement

Year Original Program Established: 1939

Schedules Monitored: Schedules II and III

Number of Prescriptions Collected Annually: 21 million

Number of Controlled Substances Dispensers: 155,000

Data Collection: Once every 30 days on the 18th of the month

Requests for Reports: 5,000 per month
Who Requests Reports: 75% Physicians
5% Pharmacies
10% Law Enforcement
10% Licensing Boards

Operating Costs: $296,000 (does not include personnel costs)

Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Grants Awarded:
(Administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice)
Fiscal Years 2002, 2003, 2005, and 2006

Contact: Katherine Ellis
(916) 319-8463

Website: http://caag.state.ca.us/bne/trips.htm

Statute & Regulation Citation:
CAL. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §§ 11165, 11165.1, 11165.5 (West 2005)
CAL. CODE REGS. tit. 16, § 1715.5 (2005)

California's CURES program dates back to the 1930s with data collection on schedule II controlled substances. Effective January 1, 2005, all licensees who dispense Schedule II and III controlled substances began providing the dispensing information to the Department of Justice. The start-up costs for the CURES program was just under $1 million. Currently, personnel expenses are funded by the state's general fund and program maintenance expenses are funded through regulatory

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board reimbursement. Effective January 1, 2007, CURES will also collect prescription data on schedule IV controlled substances and will require weekly reporting to the system.

The Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement works with a user group to discuss cases and ways to improve the CURES program. The group consists of representatives from the various boards that can request reports from the database. Officials from the CURES program are embarking on a project to better educate state and local law enforcement entities on the CURES system and how they can request information from the system for their open cases.

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