

PDMP Frequently Asked Questions

- Q.** Who can access the PDMP?
A. Practitioners eligible to prescribe controlled substances, pharmacists authorized to dispense controlled substances, sworn law enforcement personnel, and authorized regulatory boards.
- Q.** How can prescribers and pharmacists register for PDMP access?
A. Prescribers and pharmacists can initiate the application process electronically at:
<https://pmp.doj.ca.gov/pmpreg/>.
- Q.** Where do I send my completed application and copies of validating documents?
A. Mail your notarized application and documents to:
BCIIS
Attn: PDMP Registration
P.O. Box 160447
Sacramento, CA 95816
- Q.** Can I share my PDMP login and password?
A. The patient information contained in the PDMP is confidential information protected by federal and state law. It is illegal to share a PDMP login and password with anyone.
- Q.** What do I do if I find out my patient is obtaining multiple prescriptions from various practitioners?
A. Work with your patients to get them the help they need. Refer to the Medical Board of California "Guidelines for Prescribing Controlled Substances for Pain" at:
http://www.medbd.ca.gov/pain_guidelines.html.
References in your county are listed on the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs website:
<http://www.adp.cahwnet.gov>.
You may also wish to contact other practitioners or pharmacists listed in the PAR to alert them.



CURES/PDMP

P.O. Box 160447
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 227-3843
<http://oag.ca.gov/ures-pdmp>

pdmpo
Prescription Drug Monitoring Program



The CURES Program

The California Department of Justice (DOJ) Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) Program is comprised of components designed to identify and deter drug abuse and fraud without affecting legitimate medical practice and patient care. CURES includes a searchable database that provides a powerful prevention and intervention tool for health care professionals, investigative support from DOJ Special Agents for law enforcement and regulatory boards, and data for educational researchers.

Drugs Sorted by Schedule

There are five categories, or “schedules” of drugs and substances. Inclusion on a schedule is determined by the DEA, the FDA, and federal law. Schedule I drugs and substances (e.g., heroin) have no accepted medical use or safe dosage and high potential for abuse which may lead to dependence, while Schedule V drugs do have an accepted medical use, and very low potential for abuse.

History and Background

CURES evolved from the California Triplicate Prescription Program (TPP). Created in 1939, the TPP was the nation’s first multiple-copy prescription program to regulate the distribution of controlled substances. For 60 years, the TPP captured information regarding prescriptions of Schedule II controlled substances, such as cocaine, morphine, methadone, and oxycodone.

In 1998, CURES, an electronic monitoring system, began the process to replace the TPP. Since then, the system has been enhanced a number of times, and now captures data regarding prescriptions for all substances in Schedules II through IV.

Prevention and Intervention – The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

In 2009, the DOJ instituted the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), the searchable database component to CURES. The PDMP allows licensed practitioners eligible to prescribe controlled substances and pharmacists authorized to dispense controlled substances the ability to access patient prescription information at the point of care. The PDMP provides a patient’s prescription history (Patient Activity Report, or PAR) to a practitioner to help evaluate a course of patient care, while also allowing the prescriber or pharmacist to use their expertise to determine whether a patient might be abusing controlled substances.

Practitioners and pharmacists apply to the DOJ for access to the PDMP by providing a copy of their DEA certificate, state medical or pharmacy license, and government-issued identification. The DOJ requires a notarized signature on all applications.

Investigation and Enforcement

Law enforcement and regulatory agencies search the PDMP database to investigate cases such as:

- A patient with multiple prescriptions for pain medications from different physicians filled at different pharmacies. The patient might be addicted to pain medications and “doctor shopping” to support an addiction.
- A patient who is misrepresenting their condition or medical history in order to gain prescription narcotics to sell for profit.
- A patient with prescriptions for multiple medications that when ingested together in the body combine to form a much stronger narcotic, such as heroin.

Research, Education and Trend Analysis

The CURES system produces reports on general trends in the use of Schedule II through IV controlled substances. These reports provide information on drug prescribing practices and alert law enforcement, prescribers, and dispensers to emerging trends in controlled substance abuse in California. In addition, research organizations can request data from CURES staff in order to conduct trend analysis and special studies.

California Security Prescription Printers

California law requires prescribers of Schedule II through IV controlled substances to order and use tamper-resistant prescription forms only from state-approved security printers. Vendors seeking to be security printers must apply with DOJ at <http://oag.ca.gov/security-printers>.



In 2011, 2.7 billion tablets or liquid doses containing Schedule II through IV drugs were prescribed in California. That’s more than 100 doses/tablets for every California adult!