

Support Inclusion of ALL filled prescriptions in state PDMP

HB21-xxxx

Sponsors: Reps Rich and Mullica

Contact: Diana Protopapa at diana@frontlinepublicaffairs.com or 303-810-3708
Gayle Berry at gayle@gberrycorp.com or 970-250-9991.

What is the PDMP? The prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) is a database maintained by the state and local government that tracks controlled substance prescriptions after they are dispensed. Every pharmacist or health-care provider who is registered with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is required to register and maintain a user account with the Colorado PDMP. Registered users may select up to three delegates to access the Colorado PDMP on their behalf. The Colorado PDMP was primarily established to prevent misuse and diversion of controlled substances. When a pharmacist dispenses a controlled substance, information related to the patient and the prescription is entered into the database. By checking the database, all pharmacists and prescribers in the state have the ability to evaluate the prescribing history of individual patients under their care.¹

What is this bill proposing? This bill will require all filled prescriptions, not just controlled substance prescriptions, be submitted to the PDMP.

Why is this important? Patient safety. Patient safety is the driving force of this bill. Having a PDMP which collects all prescriptions provides the most comprehensive, up-to-date information available, and can help to reduce or prevent adverse drug events which can lead to hospitalizations or readmissions for patients and financial penalties for health care providers. This data will also provide opportunity to positively impact population health. With greater information, research can be done to identify where to focus on opportunities to improve the overall health of the people of Colorado through best practices.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will this work? Will this put excessive, new administrative burden on prescribers and pharmacists? The burden to pharmacies is minimal. Virtually every software vendor has software that has the capability to report electronically to the PDMP. Nebraska has successfully implemented this working with community pharmacies, long-term care pharmacies, home health/home infusion pharmacies, and some physician practices which are required to report their dispensed prescriptions. Many systems can automate the reporting and submission process. For the few pharmacies that either cannot or choose to manually report because of low volumes, there is a manual process to enter prescriptions directly into the PDMP, which some pharmacies prefer.

Are there liability protections in place for prescribers if inaccurate info is in the PDMP? Yes there are liability protections in place. Currently 12-280-407(2), C.R.S. states "A practitioner who has, in good faith, written a prescription for a controlled substance to a patient is not liable for information submitted to the program. A practitioner or prescription drug outlet who has, in good faith, submitted the required information to the program is not liable for participation in the program."

Will adding additional prescriptions to the PDMP slow it down and making it harder to use? As seen in other states, the performance of the PDMP system has not been shown to be impacted by the volume of prescriptions. Even though the volume of records will be expected to increase approximately ten-fold, larger states have similar volumes with only controlled substances without an issue. Performance metrics are in place to monitor activity. Nebraska has successfully used this approach and has had minimal issues. Colorado can learn from Nebraska's approach to make the process even better since the vendors have completed much of the development already in their software.

¹ Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies. Colorado Office of Policy, Research & Regulatory Reform. 2020, October 15). *Sunset Review: Colorado Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Fact Sheet*. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1w-W8C7lg_RvDBpk0xsuv348zhAlvUPCL/view