

Typical Provider Shopping Behaviors

Patient Behaviors	Examples
Multiple providers of the same type.	3 or more general practitioners, dentists, etc.
Dispensers and prescribers are in different localities from each other and the patient's home address.	Patient lives in Kenai; prescriber in Anchorage; dispenser in Wasilla.
Overlapping prescriptions of the same drug from different prescriber types.	Oxycodone scripts from dentist, family physician and pain management doctor within 30 days.
Excessive emergency room visits for non-emergency issues.	3 or more emergency room visits in a month for chronic pain conditions.
Requesting replacement for lost medications regularly.	Patient states that controlled substance is lost and requests new prescription.
Requesting early refills.	Patient requests early refills due to extended out-of-state trip.
Pressuring prescribers to prescribe controlled substances for the patient's family members.	Patient requests the pediatrician prescribe cough syrup with codeine for their child stating that it is needed for the child to sleep better.
Using multiple names, social security numbers, addresses, etc.	Patient fills three scripts under three different names.
Seeking referrals to multiple pain management clinics.	Patient requests referrals to pain management clinics without a specific diagnosis.
Associating with others known to be pharmaceutical controlled substance provider shopping.	Patient travels to clinic with another patient exhibiting shopping behavior and requests similar prescription.
Self-mutilation.	Patient presents with potential self-inflicted wound.
Cash transactions.	Patient prefers to pay cash when insurance available.
Requesting partial dispensing of controlled substance script.	Patient requests half of the script and returns for the rest of the script within 72 hours.
After-hour, weekend and holiday calls for prescriptions.	Patient calls prescriber at midnight on Friday to request a controlled substance script.

RESOURCES

AKPDMP Web Site:

www.alaskapdmp.com

AKPDMP Help Desk:

akpdmp-info@hidinc.com or (855) 263-6404

STATE OF ALASKA

BOARD OF PHARMACY:

<http://commerce.alaska.gov/dnn/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofPharmacy.aspx>

• **PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM:**

<http://commerce.alaska.gov/dnn/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofPharmacy/PrescriptionDrugMonitoringProgram.aspx>

BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS:

<http://commerce.alaska.gov/dnn/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofDentalExaminers.aspx>

STATE MEDICAL BOARD:

<http://commerce.alaska.gov/dnn/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/StateMedicalBoard.aspx>

BOARD OF NURSING:

<http://commerce.alaska.gov/dnn/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofNursing.aspx>

BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS

<http://commerce.alaska.gov/dnn/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofVeterinaryExaminers.aspx>

Alaska Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1500

Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3567

Phone: 907-269-8404

Fax: 907-269-6003

E-mail: akpdmp@alaska.gov

www.alaskapdmp.com

INFORMATION FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

AKPDMP



ALASKA BOARD OF PHARMACY

ALASKA PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM



HOW THE AKPDMP CAN HELP INCREASE PATIENT SAFETY

One of the largest threats to patient safety in the State of Alaska is the misuse, abuse and diversion of controlled pharmaceutical substances. Alaska has developed a tool to help health care providers identify patients who may be at risk.

The Alaska Board of Pharmacy's Alaska Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (AKPDMP) catalogs most of the Schedule II-V controlled substance prescriptions written and dispensed within the state.

This brochure identifies how the AKPDMP can help you to address the issue of controlled pharmaceutical substance abuse.

www.alaskapdmp.com

Controlled Substance Pharmaceutical Abuse



What is controlled pharmaceutical misuse, abuse and diversion?

Anytime a Schedule II-V substance is taken by an individual for a non-medical reason, it may be considered misuse. Misuse becomes abuse when the individual repeatedly takes a controlled substance for a non-medical reason. Controlled substance diversion occurs when a Schedule II-V substance is acquired and taken by an individual for whom the medication was not prescribed.

Though diversion can happen in many ways, health care providers like you can reduce one of the most common methods: pharmaceutical controlled substance provider shopping. Provider shopping is when a person obtains or attempts to obtain a prescription for a controlled substance by misrepresenting to, or knowingly withholding information from a practitioner. Provider (or Doctor) shopping is a Class C felony in Alaska.

What can you do for patients who may be misusing or abusing?

As a health care provider you have a unique opportunity to impact the behaviors of your patient early in the abuse cycle. Using information from the AKPDMP report and your clinical judgment, you may be able to intervene before misuse becomes abuse or before abuse becomes diversion. For more information on intervention, please contact the Substance Abuse Hotline at (877-266-4357)

How do you identify potential provider shoppers?

The **Typical Provider Shopping Behaviors** chart found on the back of this brochure describes some typical behaviors associated with controlled pharmaceutical provider shopping.

What should you do when diversion is suspected?

If you suspect an individual is involved in diverting controlled pharmaceutical substances, we ask that you inform your local law enforcement authorities.

How do you request a report?

An AKPDMP report can be requested via a secure Web based system. To access the system, an account must be requested by registering @ www.alaskapdmp.com

Click on "[Practitioner/Pharmacist](#)" tab and follow the instructions to complete and submit the online form;

Print a hard copy of the completed Account Request Form, sign and notarize it. Mail the completed, signed and notarized form to:

AKPDMP
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1500
Anchorage Alaska 99501

What is included in an AKPDMP report?

An AKPDMP report shows controlled substance prescriptions dispensed to a patient for a specified time period - it includes the practitioner who prescribed them, and the dispenser who dispensed them.

A practitioner may also request their own prescribing or dispensing activity.

When are reports available?

Via the Web-based system, reports can be requested 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and are often available within 15 – 20 seconds.

Who may request an AKPDMP report?

- Prescribers for medical treatment of a current or prospective patient
- Dispensers for pharmaceutical treatment of a current patient or prospective patient

Via subpoena, search warrant or court order:

- A law enforcement officer for an active drug related investigation
- A licensure board for a licensee investigation
- A judge or probation or parole officer administering a drug diversion or probation program

FAQ's

"I think my coworker is obtaining/using controlled substances. Can I look him/her up in the AKPDMP?"

Answer: No, providers may only access the data for patients for whom they are considering prescribing or dispensing a controlled substance. Using the AKPDMP inappropriately can also result in a fine and/or criminal action.

"I have a patient that would like me to download their prescription history from the AKPDMP and give it to them. Can I do this?"

Answer: No, you cannot disseminate the reports from AKPDMP. If a patient would like their own personal history from the AKPDMP, he/she may obtain that information by contacting the Board.

"The local police want me to download a PDMP report on a patient and give it to them for a case they are working on. Can I do that?"

Answer: No, here again, you cannot disseminate the reports from the AKPDMP. If law enforcement officials need reports from the AKPDMP they may obtain them directly from the Board.

"Another health care provider has requested that I fax a patient's AKPDMP report to him/her. Can I do that?"

Answer: No, the provider must download the patient's AKPDMP report. In short, you may not disseminate the reports obtained from the AKPDMP. **The AKPDMP data may not be used in any other circumstances.**