

Alaska Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
Summary Prepared for the Board of Dental Examiners
March 2021



This report contains summary data from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). Data is provided as a courtesy for the board and is intended to be used for informational purposes only.

Notices:

- The new contract with Apriss will start April 2021

Registration (changes since December noted)

Portal

Number of licensed Dentists: 844 (increase of 3)
Number of Dentists with DEA registrations: 717 (increase of 1)
Number of PDMP Dental registrations: 451 (20% increase)
Compliance rate (DEA and PDMP registrations): 63%

AWARxE (PDMP)

Number registered with the PDMP: 681 (increase of 9)
Compliance rate (DEA and AWARxE): 95%

Use

Q4 2020 Review compliance: 5.92% (439 dispensations; 26 searched)

MME Use (Q3/Q4 2020)

Number of patients treated with over 90 MME: 50 (28% increase)
Number of patients treated with over 120 MME: 14 (55% increase)
Number of patients treated with dangerous combinations (benzodiazepines and opioids): 278 (11% increase)

Delinquent Reporters

Providers who directly dispense are required to report daily. We are currently gathering this information on the renewal applications. As of this report, there were five dentists who indicated they directly dispense.

Recommendations

- Encourage increased reviewing, including the use of delegates
- Provide guidance to licensees on prescribing practices related to the use of dangerous combinations
- Providers should be notified they are not able to prescribe until their registration in AWARxE has been approved
- Encourage licensees to verify their user roles and specialties in AWARxE to improve the accuracy of reporting
- Improve communication to licensees, post-licensure, to give better instructions on how to comply with PDMP statutes and regulations
- Develop a plan for communication with licensees about mandatory reporting



Analysis and Feedback Questionnaire (44 dentists participated)

- 43% reported checking the PDMP every time they prescribe; 5% stated they never check
- 90% review while the patient is in the room
- 39% reported not having enough time to check the PDMP, 35% said there was no barrier
- Most dentists stated the PDMP was valuable for informing clinical decisions; however, the prescriber report cards did not change prescribing patterns.
- Overall, only 12% of all prescribers indicated they had delegates

MME Use

Q3/Q4 2020

The CDC recommends that primary care clinicians should reassess evidence of the benefits and risks to the individual when increasing dosage to greater or equal to 50 MME/day and avoid increasing to greater or equal to 90 MME/day when possible due to an increased risk of complications. The CDC also recommends avoiding concurrent benzodiazepine and opioid prescriptions, given the high risk of adverse drug-drug interactions, specifically respiratory depression and death.

CDC checklist for prescribing opioids -

https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/portals/5/pub/PDMP_OpioidPrescribeCDC_06.2018.pdf

CDC guidelines for prescribing opioids for chronic pain -

https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/portals/5/pub/PDMP_OpioidPrescribeCDCPain_2018.10.pdf

Provider Type	# Providers Prescribing at Least Once	# Providers Who Reviewed 0 Patients	# Providers Prescribing >90MME	# Providers Prescribing >120MME	Dangerous Combo	
					Benzo Opioid	Benzo Opioid Carisoprodol
DEN	321	59% (188)	7% (22)	2% (7)	27% (88)	0
MED	1235	31% (384)	21% (265)	12% (151)	35% (428)	2% (21)
NUR	528	20% (109)	11% (60)	7% (35)	25% (130)	2% (8)
OPT	3	100% (3)	0	0	0	0
PA	359	19% (67)	18% (66)	14% (51)	29% (103)	1% (5)
VET	187	71% (133)	2% (3)	1% (2)	4% (7)	0