

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 Communications module will roll out by the end of the year.
- We are continuing to work with Appriss on being able to issue automatic compliance notifications to providers who directly dispense, letting them know if they miss a day of reporting.
- We received approval for the Provider Outlier Module and the module will be available by October.

**Registration**

PDMP registrations are still being processed from the renewal period which ended April 1, 2021.

**Portal (Professional license system)**

Physician Assistants

Number of licensed Physician Assistants: 696  
Number of PDMP Physician Assistants registrations: 381  
Number of Physician Assistants with DEA registrations: 525  
Directly dispensing: 45

Physicians (includes Podiatrists and Medical Residents)

Number of licensed Physicians: 4,668  
Number of PDMP Physicians registrations: 3,774  
Number of Physicians with DEA registrations: 4,080  
Directly dispensing: 567 (letter sent August 5, 2021)

**AWARxE (PDMP)**

Number registered with the PDMP: 4,846  
Physician: 4,067  
Physician Assistants: 710  
Medical Resident with Prescriptive Authority: 43  
Podiatrists: 26

**Use – Review Compliance**

(Physicians, Podiatrists, Medical Residents)

Federally scheduled II – III, over a three-day supply (some specialties omitted)

Q1 2021: 43.38% (48,476 dispensations; 21,026 searched)

Q4 2020: 47.58% (48,757 dispensations; 21,772 searched)

Physician Assistants

Q1 2021: 46.51% (13,726 dispensations; 6,834 searched)

Q4 2020: 52.16% (14,163 dispensations; 7,388 searched)

### **MME Use (Q1/Q2 2021)**

#### Physician Assistants

Number of patients treated with over 90 MME: 656 (15% increase from Q4 2020/Q1 2021)

Number of patients treated with over 120 MME: 253 (28% increase from Q4 2020/Q1 2021)

Number of patients treated with dangerous combinations (benzodiazepines and opioids): 580  
(increase of 3 patients from Q4 2020/Q1 2021)

Number of patients treated with dangerous combinations (benzodiazepines, opioids,  
carisoprodol): 10 (16% increase from Q4 2020/Q1 2021)

#### Physicians

Number of patients treated with over 90 MME: 1,371 (15% increase from Q4 2020/Q1 2021)

Number of patients treated with over 120 MME: 630 (18% increase from Q4 2020/Q1 2021)

Number of patients treated with dangerous combinations (benzodiazepines and opioids): 2,881  
(2% increase from Q4 2020/Q1 2021)

Number of patients treated with dangerous combinations (benzodiazepines, opioids,  
carisoprodol): 41 (17% increase from Q4 2020/Q1 2021)

### **Delinquent Reporters**

Providers who directly dispense are required to report daily. A letter clarifying the status of the providers who indicated they are directly dispensing was mailed August 5th. This letter has not been sent to Physician Assistants who indicated they are directly dispensing as of the date of this report.

### **Recommendations**

- Encourage increased reviewing, including the use of authorized delegates
- Issue periodic reminders to licensees on mandatory reviewing and reporting
- Provide guidance to licensees on prescribing practices related to the use of dangerous combinations
- Develop a plan for communication with licensees about mandatory reporting
- Develop a disciplinary matrix to guide appropriate actions taken against licensees who do not comply with mandatory registration and use

### **MME Use**

Q1/Q2 2021

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.

Alaska Prescription Drug Monitoring Program  
Summary Prepared for the State Medical Board  
August 2021



CDC checklist for prescribing opioids -

[https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/portals/5/pub/PDMP\\_OpioidPrescribeCDC\\_06.2018.pdf](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](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	333	54% (181)	6% (19)	2% (6)	26% (85)	0
MED	1282	29% (370)	21% (273)	13% (165)	33% (425)	2% (24)
NUR	543	18% (98)	11% (62)	8% (43)	25% (138)	1% (7)
OPT	5	80% (4)	0	0	0	0
PA	347	14% (49)	19% (67)	12% (41)	29% (99)	1% (4)
VET	193	73% (141)	4% (8)	3% (6)	5% (9)	0