REPORT FOR THE BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS

Intent:

This report contains high-level information on the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) and is intended to provide a summary of registration and reporting data specific to your profession. This report includes data up to April 2019.

Overview:

The PDMP began in 2008 and is housed with the Board of Pharmacy under the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) – Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing (CBPL) section. Mandatory registration, reviewing, and reporting requirements went into effect in July 2017. All actively licensed practitioners with a valid DEA registration are required to register with the database; however, there are both practice-specific and supply-duration exemptions in AS 17.30.200(k) and (u) in which practitioners are not required to consult the PDMP. Generally, practitioners are required to review patient prescription history before prescribing, administering, and/or directly dispensing a federally scheduled II – IV controlled substance. If directly dispensing, practitioners must report this information to the PDMP on a daily basis. Information on exemptions can be found www.pdmp.alaska.gov under the Registration and Use Exemptions tab and includes information for federally-employed practitioners and pharmacists as well as information on situational exemptions to PDMP use. If mandatory registration and use exemptions do not apply and a licensee fails to register with the PDMP, disciplinary action may be taken by the State Medical Board.

Delegate access is allowed so long as the delegate holds an active license, certification, or registration under AS 08. Delegate access can help relieve time-constraints as reviewing and reporting tasks can be distributed to qualified staff.

General Information and Updates:

1. PDMP fees for initial and continued access went into effect on April 22, 2018 by authority of AS 17.30.200, which was subsequently implemented under 12 AAC 02.107. This requires a $25.00 fee to be submitted before access to the controlled substance prescription database is granted.
2. The Board of Veterinary Examiners is responsible for making available materials and resources to assist its licensees in identifying owners who may be at risk for abusing or misusing opioids. The board has made available an opioid prescribing resource document originally published by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) and is accessible at: https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/Pages/opioid-resources-for-veterinarians.aspx
3. The Department of Law opined on December 1, 2017 through the request of the Board of Pharmacy that veterinarians have the legal ability to conduct patient prescription history queries on animal owners in order to comply with applicable sections of AS 17.30.200 and AS 08.98.050.
4. An Awareness and Feedback Questionnaire, developed per the directive of the CDC, was made available from May 2018 to June 2018. Out of 402 total respondents, 21 (5.24%) of veterinarians participated. Preliminary results can be found at www.pdmp.alaska.gov.

5. Beginning June 2018, the PDMP began separating federal practitioners and pharmacists from those *required* to register by updating user roles, e.g.: 'Physician' to 'IHS Prescriber' (Indian Health Service) Prescriber.

6. Beginning June 2018, all newly registered and renewed PDMP users are issued separate PDMP registration numbers and are searchable by name under the program 'Prescription Drug Monitoring Program' at: https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/cbp/main/Search/Professional

7. Beginning May 15, 2019, Board of Veterinary Examiners' staff assumed responsibility of processing initial and renewal registrations.

8. There are currently 5 pending initial accounts for veterinarians in AWARxE and 1 pending accounts in CBP Portal. Three accounts are pending, meaning the licensees have been contacted about their incomplete registration, but no action to complete the registration has been taken in over 6 months. are 2 renewal applications currently pending.

9. On September 30, 2019, the online initial application was launched through MyAlaska. This replaces the paper form (08-4760) but does not replace the step of creating an account in AWARxE.

10. Currently working with Appriss to turn on a Veterinary Rx Only search within AWARxE.

Enhancements:

11. On September 9th, 2019, NarxCare was integrated into the existing AWARxE platform. NarxCare provides visual analytics snapshots upon a patient query so providers can make more informed clinical decisions based on a patient's overdose risk score (ORS), which is a value between 0 and 900 and provides an odds ratio for unintentional death.

12. An Awareness and Feedback Questionnaire for 2019 will be launched before the end of the year

13. The Compliance Module feature will go live in the coming months. This will provide the PDMP Manager to review providers who did not meet mandatory review requirements for a certain date range, and also will give providers the ability to view their own compliance.

14. A License Integration enhancement project is imminent and will provide automatic verification of licensure status, e.g.: active or inactive between CBPL's licensing database, Portal, and the AWARxE platform. For existing users, this means providers who do not renew their professional license will be automatically deactivated in the PDMP.

15. Clinical Alerts will go live in the coming months, which will give real-time alerts to providers when a patient has met or exceeded a prescription threshold threshold.

Data:

The Alaska State Board of Veterinary Examiners regulates veterinarians and veterinary technicians. As of May 22, 2019 there are a total of 7,817 registered users, 258 of which are veterinarians (Figure 1), representing a 3.29% contribution to the total user count. The proportion of total licensed veterinarians registered with the PDMP is 65%, which is a 4.4% decrease from the previous report period. The percentage of non-registered users, 35%, may due to non-compliance, not having an active Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration, or being employed by a federal facility and registered under a different user role, e.g.: VA Prescriber.
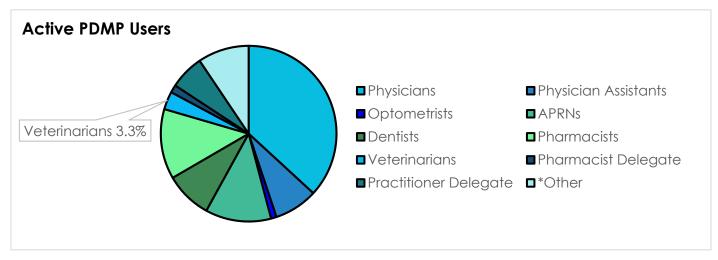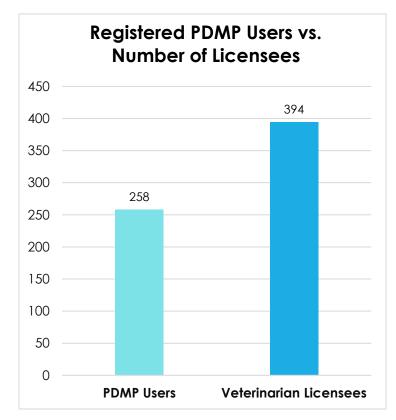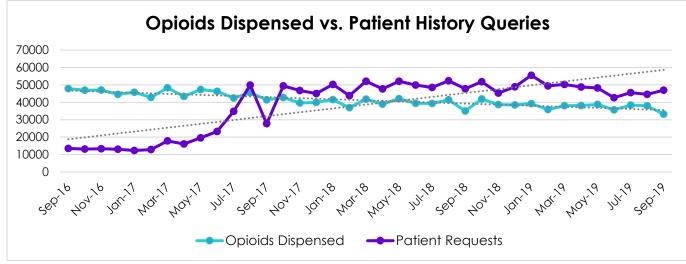
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Prescription Drug PDMP Monitoring Program

Active PDMP Users

Veterinarians 3.3%

- ☐ Physicians
- ☐ Physician Assistants
- ☐ Optometrists
- ☐ APRNs
- ☐ Dentists
- ☐ Pharmacists
- ☐ Veterinarians
- ☐ Pharmacist Delegate
- ☐ Practitioner Delegate
- ☐ *Other

Figure 1. Veterinarians comprise 3.3% of actively registered users. *Other includes IHS and VA prescribers and dispensers, military prescribers, admin, medical examiners/coroners, and out-of-state pharmacists.

Registered PDMP Users vs. Number of Licensees

PDMP Users: 258
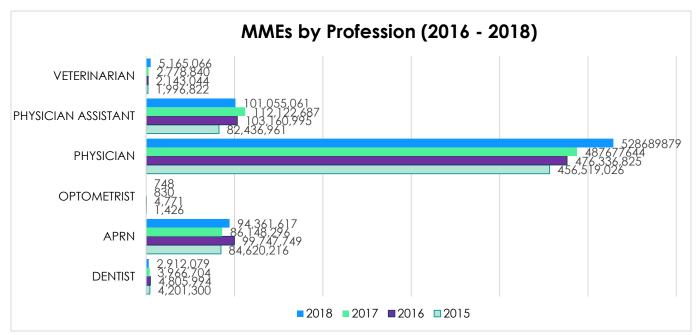Veterinarian Licensees: 394

Figure 2. The proportion of licensed veterinarians to registered PDMP users is represented; however, some licensed veterinarians may be excluded from this figure due to not holding an active DEA registration.

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Figure 3 below shows the number of opioid prescriptions dispensed against the number of patient prescription history requests. Figure 6 below shows the number of morphine milligram equivalents (MME) prescribed (subsequently dispensed) by profession. MMEs is a standardized measurement used to represent the potency of opioids but excludes buprenorphine as a partial opioid agonist. Figures 5 – 7 shows the interaction activities of captured from January 2017 to September 2019.
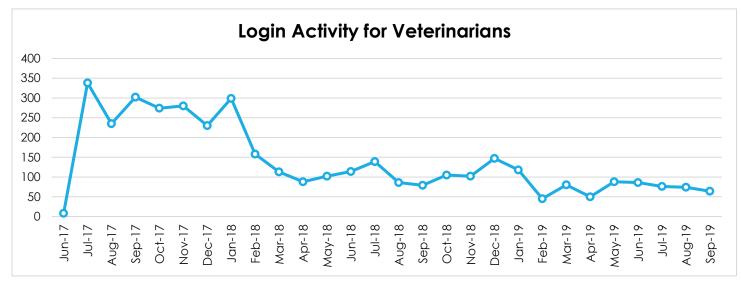

Figure 3. This graph shows the upward trend of patient prescription history requests in the PDMP, suggesting an inverse relationship between overall opioid prescribing and dispensing in the state. The decrease in opioid dispensations may also be attributed to other factors, including prescriptive policies, opioid continuing education, and salience of increased state-wide monitoring of prescribing practices as reflected in individual prescriber report cards.
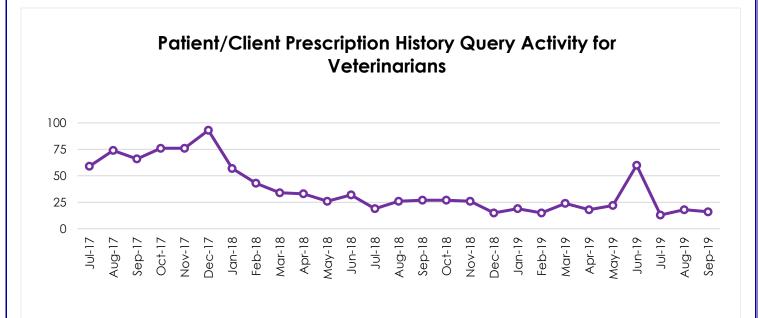

Figure 4. MMEs prescribed by veterinarians in 2016 and 2017 ranged from .3% to 1% of total MMEs by profession. The number of MMEs prescribed was highest in 2018 compared to previous years.

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Figure 5. Login activity for veterinarians increased dramatically following mandatory reviewing requirements effective in July 2017 and was steady until January 2018. Logins have decreased substantially since the beginning of the year; the percent change of login activity since September 2018 to September 2019 is -19%.
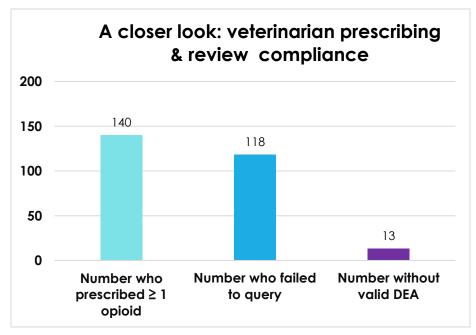

Figure 6. There have been a total of 1,010 patient requests conducted by veterinarians since July 2017, with requests peaking in December 2017. Requests have steadily declined since the beginning of 2018. It is important to note that there are 140 actively prescribing practitioners, but only an average of 38 queries have been performed since July 2017. For a closer look, view Figure 7.
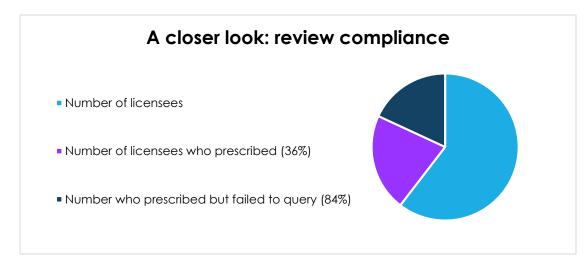
Between January 1st, 2019 to June 30th, 2019, all veterinarians who prescribed at least one controlled substance received a prescriber report card. Figure 7, below, shows the number of prescribing veterinarians, including the number of providers who prescribed without a valid DEA registration and the number of providers who failed to query the PDMP prior to issuing the prescription to the client, and administering the medication or directly dispensing to the patient.

Figure. 7 Out of 140 veterinarians who prescribed at least one opioid from 01/01/2019 to 06/30/2019, only 22 veterinarians performed a query. This includes queries made directly by a veterinarian and a veterinarian's delegate.

Figure 8. Out of 140 veterinarians who prescribed at least one opioid from 01/01/2019 to 06/30/2019, only 22 veterinarians performed a query; 84% did not. This includes queries made directly by a veterinarian and a veterinarian's delegate.