INFORMATION FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

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 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (AKPDMP) collects data on Schedules II, III and IV controlled substance prescriptions written and dispensed within the state, other than those administered to a patient at a health care facility.

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

ALASKA BOARD OF PHARMACY

AKPDMP
ALASKA PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM

RESOURCES

AKPDMP Web Site: https://alaska.pmpaware.net
AKPDMP Help Desk: Telephone: 1 (855) 525-4767
Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing.aspx)
- Board of Pharmacy
- Board of Dental Examiners
- State Medical Board
- Board of Nursing
- Board of Examiners in Optometry
- Board of Veterinary Examiners

Alaska Behavioral Health: http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dbh/substanceabuse/
Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator: http://dasis3.samhsa.gov/
Institute for Research, Education and Training in Addictions: www.ireta.org

Typical Provider Shopping Behaviors

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

What should you do when diversion is suspected?

If you suspect an individual is involved in diverting controlled pharmaceutical substances, we ask that you please report them to the proper law enforcement authorities.

How do you request a report?

Reports can be requested via a secure Web based system. To access the system, an account must be requested using the following steps.

- Go to: [https://alaska.pmpaware.net](https://alaska.pmpaware.net)
- Log on with your existing account, or
- Create an account by clicking on the link. (All providers are encouraged to have an account with the AKPDMP)

FAQ

**a) “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.

**b) “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, here again, you cannot disseminate the reports from the AKPDMP. If a patient would like their own personal history from the AKPDMP, he/she may obtain that information by contacting the Board.

**c) “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.

**d) “Another health care provider has requested that I fax a patient’s AKPDMP report to him/her. Can I do that?”**

*Answer:* Yes, however, this is limited to a healthcare provider sharing information with another healthcare provider engaged in an individual patient’s care.